



The Antiquary.



MARCH, 1899.

Notes of the Month.

THE first annual meeting of the Shropshire Parish Register Society was held at the Shirehall, Shrewsbury, on January 30, under the presidency of Lord Windsor. The report of the Council, which was presented and adopted, stated that the following registers had been printed and were now being issued: Diocese of Lichfield: Battlefield, Harley, and Pitchford. Diocese of Hereford: Shipton and Sibdon Carwood. Diocese of St. Asaph: Molverley. Transcripts of the following registers have been completed, and will, it is hoped, shortly be issued: Diocese of Lichfield: Albrighton, Cound, Cressage, Donnington, Eaton Constantine, Frodesley, Kenly, Lee Brockhurst, Leighton, Sheinton, Smethcote, Stapleton, Stuckley. Diocese of Hereford: Cardington, Cleobury Mortimer, Clunbury, Ford, Hanwood, Hopton Castle, Hughley, Kinlet, More, Neen Savage, Neenton. The following registers are in process of transcription: Diocese of Lichfield: Condover, Fitz, Lilleshall, Preston Gubbals, Sheriffhales, and Shrewsbury. Diocese of Hereford: Bishop's Castle, Chetton, Culmington, Hopesay, Llanfair, Lydbury North, Lydham, Mainstone, Much Wenlock, Norbury, Onibury, Stokesay, and Wentnor. Diocese of St. Asaph: Oswestry and Selattyn. This is an admirable record of work for so young a society. That so much has been done is due not only to the energy of the hon. secretary, the Rev. W. G. D. Fletcher, but to the large amount of gratuitous assistance which the society

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has received from various ladies and clergymen in the difficult work of copying, collating, and prefacing. The number of members is 168, and the New York Historical and Statistical Society and the Parish Register Society have associated themselves with the Shropshire organization. We are glad to notice that one speaker, Prebendary Burd, sought to impress upon his clerical friends the "absolute necessity of not allowing irresponsible persons to have access to parish registers without some kind of supervision. . . . It occurred to him that the clergy were not quite as cautious as they ought to be in the matter," a statement which does not err on the side of exaggeration.



The battle of the Dumbuck crannog has been raging in the Glasgow papers, especially in the *Glasgow Herald*, which has devoted many columns to letters by Dr. Munro, Mr. Andrew Lang, and other lesser controversialists. The "storm-in-a-teacup," as one correspondent calls it, relates solely to the genuineness of certain articles found in the course of the work of exploring the crannog. After a careful reading of the correspondence, it is difficult to avoid coming to the conclusion that Dr. Munro's charges must be met with the verdict "Not Proven." But the end of the battle is not yet. In the meantime, it may be pointed out that in the noise and dust of the conflict the crannog itself has somewhat been lost sight of. Whether the things with strange and curious markings which have been found are genuine or not, the interest in the crannog remains. Dr. Munro admits that "undoubtedly the Dumbuck structure is a curious and novel relic of a forgotten phase of Scottish civilization." As all parties are agreed upon this point, we hope that the work of exploration, which appears to have been suspended while the newspaper war was raging, will be resumed and thoroughly and carefully carried out till the whole structure has been unveiled, and every part of the "refuse heap" thoroughly excavated and examined.



The Newcastle Society of Antiquaries has lately completed a fifty years' occupancy of

the Castle in the capital of Tyneland, and it is proposed to celebrate the event, after the usual British manner, by a banquet. The society itself was founded in February, 1812, when its object was declared to be "Enquiry into antiquities in general, but especially into those of the North of England, and of the counties of Northumberland, Cumberland, and Durham in particular." The first part of the society's transactions was published in Newcastle in 1816 under the title of *Archæologia Æliana*. Since that date much good work has been accomplished, especially, as is natural, in connection with excavations made at stations in the neighbourhood of the Roman wall.

The *Norfolk Chronicle* states that the Dean of Norwich, with Dr. Bensly, Dr. Jessopp, Mr. St. John Hope (of the Society of Antiquaries), and other gentlemen have been led to excavate in the neighbourhood of the Lyhart screen in Norwich Cathedral for the purpose of discovering, if possible, the burial-place of St. William, the young martyr who was put to death by the Jews under circumstances which are well enough known by all who are acquainted with the history of the city. "It will be remembered that the body was exhibited by the monks in the cathedral, and that it worked many wondrous miracles, and it is reputed that it was laid to rest in the north-east portion of the nave, in or near the chapel dedicated to the saint. The examinations for the purpose of finding this spot which were prosecuted on Monday last were unavailing. A discovery, however, was made in the bringing to light of the grave of the Bishop, who, it was stated, caused the present organ to be placed in the church, whilst there are several indications in the soil and upon the masonry of the fire which wrought such dire havoc in the cathedral, and the traces of it are to be observed in other parts of the building. The explorations were continued on Tuesday in the effort to discover the location of the place of interment of Bishop Lyhart, the builder of the screen, and to whom the church is indebted for a very large portion of its magnificence. It is stated that the tomb was ultimately discovered, and that the remains of the Bishop were found to be

accompanied by his pastoral staff and his episcopal ring. . . . With respect to the Lyhart ring, it may be interesting to state that the late Mr. Robert Fitch possessed a reputed ring of this Bishop, and that it is still in the possession of his son, Major Fitch."

The Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris, like our own British Museum Library, is constantly outgrowing its space, and a serious effort is now about to be made to enlarge it. During the present year £32,000 is to be spent upon new buildings. It is said that the Bibliothèque Nationale will be brought up to date by the provision of a letter-box and a telephone.

At a recent meeting of the council of the British Record Society, Limited, it was resolved: "That having regard to the revelations relating to the custody and condition of wills, parish registers, and other public documents in the recent Shipway pedigree case, in which so many documents were forged and stolen, the Council considers steps should be taken to recommend the Government to appoint a Commission to inquire into the subject of the better custody and preservation and arrangement of such records, whereby such practices may be rendered impossible in the future.

"That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the two Archbishops, the President of the Local Government Board, to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to the President of the Probate, Divorce, and Admiralty Division, and to the Home Secretary."

We hope that this subject will not be allowed to rest until some definite steps have been taken towards the better care of our parish records. The various antiquarian and archæological societies, beginning with the Society of Antiquaries, might do good service by expressing their opinions in a similar manner, or by helping in any other way which may be practicable to strengthen the hands of those who are pressing for an urgently needed reform.

We are enabled, by the courtesy of Mr. Edwin Bays of Cambridge, to reproduce a

reprint of a sketch of 1820, which he has had made on zinc, of Hobson's Conduit and the Shire Hall, Cambridge. We are also indebted to Mr. Bays for the following note: "Thomas Hobson, who in the year 1614 erected on the Market Hill the conduit, and carried water thereto, gave by will the rent of seven lays of pasture ground in St. Thomas' lays to keep the conduit in repair, and bequeathed £10 for beautifying the same." Various other bequests and gifts were made towards the maintenance of the

contains two courts, which were opened by Lord Chief Justice Willes and Mr. Baron Clarke on August 11, 1747."

We refrained purposely last month from mentioning the current newspaper gossip about the discovery of the "tomb of Romulus" in the Roman Forum. It seemed better to wait till authenticated details arrived explaining what really had been found. In the course of excavations carried on in the Forum under the guidance and



Pub by W. Mason, 76 20, near -

- the Hospital, Cambridge

The Guild Hall & Hobson's Conduit, Cambridge.

Reprint published by Edwin Bays, 1898
registered

conduit and the due provision of water between 1615 and 1835. At the latter date the "University gave £150 and the Corporation £50 to purchase additional land for the protection of the source of the water-course. From the nine wells in the allotment purchased in 1835 an unlimited supply is gravitated through an open channel, unguarded by fences, to the conduit head at the top of Trumpington Street. . . . The Shire House, which forms the background of the picture, is built of brick and stone, and

supervision of Professor Boni, there was discovered, on the border-line between the Comitium and the Forum, and not far from the Arch of Septimius Severus, a site, about 3 mètres by 4 in size, paved with blocks of black Tænarian marble. On three sides this space was found to be protected by a marble parapet. "In estimating the value of this discovery," says Professor Lanciani in the *Athenæum*, "we must bear in mind two fundamental facts. The first is that the Forum, the Comitium, and the

surrounding edifices were seriously injured or completely destroyed by the fire of Carinus, A.D. 283. . . . The violence of the flames was such that even the travertine floor of the Forum and of the Comitium had to be renewed, and was slightly raised in level.

"We see, therefore, the Forum and the Comitium not as they were seen and described by classics before the end of the third century after Christ, but as they were manipulated and rearranged by Diocletian and Maxentius after the fire of 283.

"The second fact is that, among the hundreds of thousands of square feet of public squares, or streets, or sacred enclosures, or courts laid bare in Rome, at Ostia, at Tusculum, at Præneste, at Tibur, at Cures, not one square foot of black flooring has ever been found. This small corner of the Comitium 'stratum lapide nigro' is unique in its kind. Now, if we recollect that classic authors mention the existence of a 'lapis niger' in this identical place, how can we help connecting this find with that testimony, making the conclusion that what we have discovered is a late representative of the famous black stone seen and described by Varro ('Niger lapis in Comitio locum funestum significat'—Fest.), not far from the Rostra?"

But to explain what this black stone indicates, and why it was placed in the Comitium, is the difficulty. Ancient writers themselves were only able to make guesses. The fact of its reconstruction and protection, however, shows the persistence of the tradition of its sacredness. Professor Lanciani concludes: "One thing is certain. The enclosure and its black flooring have not been disturbed since the time they were rebuilt; therefore, if there is anything buried under it—an earthen jar, a stone coffin, or some other relic from the prehistoric age—we can easily reach it by tunnelling the ground at the proper depth. The work has already begun, and I hope to be able to give the solution of the mystery in my next letter."

While some men were engaged digging gravel, one day in January last, from the side of a sand hillock in one of the fields on the Culter estate, near Milltimber Station, Aberdeenshire, they came upon a large bone. They at first took it to be that of a horse or

some other animal, but after closer examination found it to be a human thigh-bone. This aroused their curiosity, and further investigation revealed a large boulder-stone, which fell away on being touched. This boulder proved to be the top of a rude coffin made up of two large slabs forming the sides, with shorter slabs at the ends, the bottom being very carefully laid with two layers of pebbles, showing that great pains had been taken in making the resting-place. The greater part of the remains seemed to have crumbled away, except a human skull, which contained a remarkably well-preserved and fine set of teeth, and the thigh-bone first discovered. The coffin also contained a small clay urn, which unfortunately was smashed by the fall of the boulder and sides of the coffin. The coffin lay east and west, the head being towards the east, and was about 3½ feet under ground. The coffin was about 22 inches wide, and 20 inches deep. One of the slabs is of peculiar formation, and seems to have been rudely carved, traces of a cross being easily seen.

A curious discovery, says the *Athenæum*, has been made by Mr. W. H. St. John Hope with respect to the famous "Syon cope" of *opus Anglicanum* preserved in the South Kensington Museum. It has long been known that the cope had been mutilated, and patched with other pieces of English embroidery of about the same period; but Mr. Hope has ascertained—what is obvious enough now that it has been pointed out—that the narrow heraldic border with lozenges of arms is made up of a stole and fanon from which the widened ends have been removed, and then the remainder sewn end to end. The central lozenge in each case is charged with a cross, from which the lozenges range in reversed order to the ends of both stole and fanon.

Some very interesting relics of underground London have lately been presented to the Guildhall Museum by Sir Benjamin Baker, the well-known engineer, and the City Commissioners of Sewers. These were brought to light by the excavations which have been made in connection with the Bank and Newgate Stations of the Central London Railway. Among them are an engraved brass rowel

spur of the seventeenth century, a portion of a horseshoe, several specimens of Samian ware, a Venetian wineglass, and a platter of painted Delft ware, also of the seventeenth century, with some green glazed ware, a white stone jug, and a few human bones. These, together with some Roman antiquities, also dug up at the corner of Queen Victoria Street, near Walbrook, and a curious cast-iron plaque, representing the killing of the "goose with the golden egg," which was discovered in the cellar of an old house in Smithfield Market, have been placed near the famous collection of relics of underground London which were gathered together with so much assiduity by the late Mr. Charles Roach Smith, F.S.A., of Strood.

During the progress of removing soil from the whinstone rock in Westfield Quarry, Condorrat, Dumbartonshire, an antiquarian discovery of some interest has been made. The workmen found a quern of coarse whinstone, different from any that is got in the locality. The dimensions are 18 inches in length, with a breadth of 10 inches, and a depth of 3 inches. The quern was discovered upon a made-up floor, constructed of rude boulders, about 18 inches from the surface.

The Thoroton Antiquarian Society has been holding, during the month just past, a very interesting exhibition of curiosities and antiquities in the Exchange Hall, Nottingham. It comprised above 400 exhibits in sixteen sections. Among the many attractions of the show were books and bookbindings, lace and embroidery, seals, book-plates, manuscripts—including the Gradual of York lent by Mr. Ward—quaint old views of Nottingham, local pottery, and a valuable collection of silver, including a plain silver chalice, lent by the Duke of Portland, which bears the following inscription: "King Charles I. received the Communion in this boule on Tuesday, the 30 January, 1648, being the day in which he was murdered." One of the richest sections in the exhibition was that devoted to coins, medals, and tokens. A rare series of Anglo-Saxon, Norman, and Early English coins was jointly contributed by Miss Anne Hutchinson, the Rev. R. Baron Von Hube, Mr. Frank E. Burton,

Mr. W. H. Mason, Mr. H. Hill, and Mr. Samuel Page. In addition to a notable collection of silver and copper coins discovered at various times in Nottingham, Mr. Page lent a case containing 100 silver coins of Charles I., the series including several exceedingly rare country issues and a set of the pieces struck by Oliver Cromwell. Newark Siege pieces of various face values were well to the fore in most of the cases, and were of special interest as throwing a side-light upon one of the most stirring chapters of local history, viz., the investment of Newark Castle, a Royalist stronghold, by the Parliamentary forces. These coins were struck at Newark, where a mint was established by Charles I. in 1645-46, and when the funds began to run low quantities of family plate were brought to the castle by the nobility and clergy and coined into half-crowns, shillings, ninepenny pieces and sixpences, with which the Royalist troops were paid.

The last remains of a once famous old building in High Street, Leicester, will shortly be cleared away to make room for "improvements." The house was once known as Lord's Place, "a stately and extensive mansion." In Queen Elizabeth's time, Lord's Place belonged to the Earl of Huntingdon. In 1569 Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots, who was in the charge of the Earl of Shrewsbury, rested there for one or two nights. In 1586 the unfortunate Queen was at Leicester again, only two or three months before her execution at Fotheringay Castle on February 8, 1587. James I. was at Leicester in August, 1612, and was entertained at Lord's Place. Charles I. was at the mansion twice in 1642, viz., on July 22 and again on August 18, on the latter date accompanied by Prince Charles, who came subsequently to the throne.

Mr. J. B. Shipley, of Chexbres, Switzerland, sends us the following note, which we print with all reserve: "The eminent Dalmatian savant, Professor Dr. Luka Jelic, whose researches in the Vatican archives have thrown great light on the Norse colonization of North America, proving that Europe possessed full knowledge of the existence of those colonies in 1492 and even later, is now

about to proclaim to the world perhaps the most remarkable cartographical discovery that has ever been made, and one which will entirely change preconceived ideas, and settle innumerable obscure and disputed points as to the geography of the ancient world, both Greek and Roman. He has, in fact, discovered an exact ancient copy of the maps of Ptolemy of Alexandria, A.D. 140, hitherto believed to be irrecoverably lost; and more than this, he is able to prove that these maps are themselves not the original production of Ptolemy, but that they preserve to us the almost unchanged work of Eratosthenes, B.C. 200, or earlier, modified only by Hipparchus, a century later, the slight changes added by Ptolemy being political rather than geographical in character. The maps are absolutely free from all detail referring to a later date than that of Ptolemy, whose rendering of Eratosthenes' work has thus come to us intact, and now, after having been lost for centuries, has been identified by the rare insight and skill in all pertaining to ancient cartography of the learned Dalmatian professor."



Quarterly Notes on Roman Britain.

BY F. HAVERFIELD, M.A., F.S.A.

NO. XXVII.

IN my last article (*ante*, p. 39) I noticed various discoveries of Roman remains in Britain made during the past half year in the southern part of our island. I then promised to follow this up with a corresponding notice of discoveries made in the north during the same period. I hope by this plan to pick up the arrears into which I have been forced in connection with my so-called Quarterly Notes. Having thus brought my readers up to date I trust to keep them there in future, though it will be obvious to them that discoveries occur irregularly, and therefore that mechanical regularity in the appearance of my articles is not in itself wholly desirable.

My present article, dealing with Northern Britain, deals almost exclusively with military

things. It is concerned with the excavations of forts and fortifications, and may be divided into three principal headings. First comes the exploration of certain forts, or supposed forts, in Lancashire; secondly, the work done during the summer and autumn of 1898 on the Roman Wall between Newcastle and Carlisle; thirdly, the examination of Birrenswark in Southern Scotland.

Three sites were attacked in Lancashire. At the most important, the fort of Bremetennacum, now Ribchester, a few miles east of Preston, Mr. John Garstang has made some interesting and noteworthy discoveries. Starting from results obtained, and theories formed in some excavations made ten or twelve years ago, he was able to fix three out of the four corners of the fort, and thus to determine its exact area and position. It had been previously supposed that two of the corners and all one side had been demolished by the river Ribble. Now Mr. Garstang has found one of the missing corners, the southern one, not in the river, but under dry land, and he has thereby shown that the area of the fort was about six acres, a very common size for a largish fort. The corner is fairly well preserved, he tells me, and unmistakable. It appears to have had inside it a turret of the usual type; through the turret and rampart runs a walled passage of a very unusual type, leading down to a well just outside the rampart. This walled passage appears to be Roman; I know of no precise parallel to it, but it does not seem in itself an impossibility. None of the gates have been found, but there are traces of a curious exit through the north corner which I do not understand—it is not constructed in Roman style. A few coins (bronze of Domitian, Trajan, Hadrian) and some pieces of Samian and other pottery, were discovered in the course of these excavations. For further details I may refer my readers to an article by Mr. Garstang in this number.

Mr. Garstang has also trenched the little earthwork at Mellor, on a hilltop south of Ribchester. This has hitherto counted as Roman; indeed, it has been honoured by a Roman road leading specially to it from Manchester. Since Mr. Garstang's trenching, which I was able to visit personally, the site need no longer be called Roman.

Excavations have also been made under

the auspices of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society at Castleshaw. This place is technically in Yorkshire but geographically in Lancashire, being on the west side of the Standedge pass on the road from Manchester and Oldham to Huddersfield. It has been supposed to be a "station" on a Roman road from Manchester over Standedge to Slack (Cambodunum), but no real traces of such a station now remain above ground. The excavations produced some tiles, Samian and other pottery, nails said to be Roman, and a hard clay surface which was thought to be a smelting hearth. It is much to be wished that the search be continued. At present it cannot be called quite certain that a Roman road crossed Standedge, for the traces of the road are insufficient. If it could be shown that Castleshaw was a small fort or post, the road might be assumed with more confidence. I am indebted to Mr. G. C. Yates and Mr. Andrew for information about these discoveries.

THE WALL.—On the Roman wall two distinct undertakings were in progress last autumn. Mr. R. C. Bosanquet, on behalf of the Newcastle Society of Antiquaries, excavated practically the whole of the interior of the fort at Housesteads (Borcovicum) and obtained a complete plan of it. The *prætorium* was found to be in specially good preservation. It resembles fairly closely the *prætoria* at Cilurnum (the Chesters), at Bremenium (Rochester), and at Blatobulgium (Birrens); it differs from the *prætorium* at Hardknott, which is perhaps slightly more like the instances found on the German *Limes*. In addition, Mr. Bosanquet examined the "Amphitheatre," which turns out to be a quarry simply, and not an amphitheatre, so far as I can judge. He also examined a few of the outbuildings, in particular the *Mithræum*, which had been plundered but never properly examined before. Several inscriptions, much pottery, a remarkable find of iron arrowheads, and much else, were discovered in the course of the work. The whole place had been searched by previous diggers, greedy generally for building-stone, though not all careless of antiquities. It was not therefore virgin soil. Nevertheless Mr. Bosanquet's scientific search has yielded excellent results, and archaeologists will look eagerly for his report and plans.

The Vallum and other frontier works were also explored. For the results I may refer to the report which I have written for the Cumberland Archaeological Society, and may here only summarize. Fresh evidence was gained to show that the Turf Wall at Birdoswald, near Gilsland, was earlier than the Stone Wall, but no evidence could be found that the Turf Wall ever existed elsewhere than in this particular neighbourhood. Fresh evidence was also gained to show that the Vallum is coeval with the works north of it, and is not an earlier independent frontier. Other detailed results were obtained, which may fairly be regarded as important, but which cannot be easily described without an elaborate statement of the Mural problems which they concern.

At Bewcastle, in North Cumberland, an inscription has been found in the churchyard, that is, inside the area of the Roman fort. It is dedicated to the native god Cocidius by the commander of the garrison, Q. Peltrius Maximus. Probably the stone was set up in the third century of our era.

BIRRENSWARK.—The great hill of Birrenswark, or Burnswark, is famous alike in archaeology and in topography. Though less than 1,000 feet in height, it is so situated as to command a prospect of extraordinary width, and to be visible itself for miles in many directions. I know few hills which "follow one about" so persistently as Birrenswark follows the wanderer in Cumberland and Dumfries. The hill is girt and crowned with ancient earthworks, and the Scotch Society of Antiquaries, which lately explored the Roman forts at Birrens and Ardoch, has this last autumn continued its good work by exploring Birrenswark. I have been able to visit the site, by the kindness of Scotch archaeologists. There seems to be some difference of opinion as to the date of the earthworks. My own impression is that probably the works on the hilltop are of native origin, while those below may represent Roman troops attacking the Caledonians entrenched above. That the upper fortifications are not Roman seems to me almost certain. Various interesting things have, however, been found in them, and seem to be of Roman date, in particular some iron objects and numerous small leaden *glandes*, or bullets, shaped more or less like acorns. These bullets vary a good deal in size, some

weighing over two ounces, some barely three-quarters of an ounce. These bullets suggest an interesting but somewhat speculative proposition. Lead *glandes*, so far as we at present know, were used by the Romans only during the later Republic and earlier Empire. We have references to them as used in A.D. 58, and probably A.D. 70, but all later references to bullets of any definite material mention stone bullets. It is therefore probable that the use of leaden *glandes* ceased about the end of the first century of our era. If this be so, we may conjecturally attribute the Birrenswark *glandes* to some campaign of Agricola. The traces of that General have, no doubt, been noticed very often where there are no traces at all, and we have become sceptical about them, but it still seems worth while to point out the possibilities of this case. It may be permissible to add a hope that the Scotch antiquaries will be able soon to publish the results of this important undertaking.

Meanwhile there remains one point in Roman Scotland which imperatively demands examination. We know a good deal—in some cases more, in some cases less—about the detached forts at Birrens and Cappuck and Ardoch. We know how the Antonine Vallum was constructed, though the report of its examination is now nearly eight years overdue. But we do not know anything about the forts attached to that Vallum, such, for instance, as Rough Castle. If historical inquiry is to go forward in respect of the Roman occupation of Scotland, one of these forts must be properly explored.

CHRIST CHURCH, OXFORD,
January 20, 1899.



Besant's "South London."*

By T. FAIRMAN ORDISH, F.S.A.

IN the literature of London's history there is nothing like the books of Sir Walter Besant. They mark an epoch, and possibly neither author nor reader can yet view them with a true objectivity. Regarded by the professed

* *South London*, by Sir Walter Besant, M.A., F.S.A. London: Chatto and Windus, 1899, 8vo.

antiquary and historian as a novelist's excursion into an element not his own, begrudged somewhat by the vast legion of the readers of fiction, there is, between these extremes, a large and growing section of readers to whom the volumes have come as a new interest in life, to whom, as the history of the capital in which they live, or the geographical centre of the empire of which they are citizens, these writings have been a revelation. And this section of readers undoubtedly is being rapidly recruited from the habitual readers of fiction on the one side, and from historical students on the other. A new force has come into the subject. Students of London perceive new meanings and connections in the facts which they have laboured to co-ordinate and arrange; the ordinary reader of historical tastes finds himself led on to consider the detailed labours of the antiquary, and to peep into volumes whose aspect would formerly have been too uninviting.

The explanation lies in no way remote. It may be amply illustrated from the author's latest published work on the subject—his book on South London. The power of vision which enables him to realize the condition of Southwark in prehistoric times; the descriptive power which shows us the wind-swept marsh, haunt of gull, heron, and wild fowl, between the river and the first rising ground on the south "still to be observed at Clapham, Brixton, and Camberwell"; the intense human sympathy which leads him to his explanation of the origin of London in the needs and activities of men; the constructive imagination which visualizes the making of the great causeway across the marsh, and pictures the caravans of merchants with their slaves and packhorses as they forded the river and passed southward across the causeway; the power of combining, by perceiving their inter-relation, the scattered facts that are known of remote historical times, resulting in the remarkable sketch of the "early history" which forms his second chapter—such are the qualities conspicuous in this work, which bring the breath of life into the story, and sufficiently explain why it is that the author is able to create his own public for his treatment of this theme.

The third chapter of the book is entitled "A Forgotten Monastery," and gives an

account of Bermondsey Abbey. Concerning this we have heard a criticism passed by an eminent authority on London, that it was surely not forgotten by anybody who knew of it, unless by "the man in the street." Such a remark is perhaps natural in an antiquary, but it shows no recognition of the author's position in the matter. The book is not addressed to specialists, but to the English reading public. Now, if the London antiquary will look into the most widely-circulated books on London before the advent of Sir Walter Besant, viz., Thornbury and Walford's *Old and New London*, and Walford's *Greater London*, he will find no account of Bermondsey Abbey in either of these works. Accordingly, the author was amply justified, from the point of view of the reading public, in calling the great and important religious establishment at Bermondsey "a forgotten monastery."

The picture of the monastery (p. 51) and the picture of the High Street, Southwark (facing p. 84), appear to have been taken from Whittock's view of London, founded upon that of Van den Wyngaerde. The illustrations are beautifully reproduced, and for the purposes of the book are admirable, but it may not be amiss to remind students that the source is not a contemporary one. Great assistance may be found in Whittock's reconstruction of features of London not to be found in the original and contemporary view from which he worked, but his picture should not be called Wyngaerde's view. The reconstruction of monastic London by a later artist, Mr. H. W. Brewer, published in the *Builder*, may likewise be of assistance, and in that case there is no chance of confusion between a contemporary representation and a reconstruction from ascertained data.

"The Abbey of St. Saviour, Bermondsey, was the Westminster of South London," writes Sir Walter, with a happily inspired definition, and he prefaces his account of the monastery with a description of the ancient topography of the district, in which the facts familiar to us in Rendle's *Old Southwark*, in Lysons' *Environs of London*, and other sources, are weaved into a texture which in the end wears an aspect of surprising freshness. With the story of the monastery is included the history of two

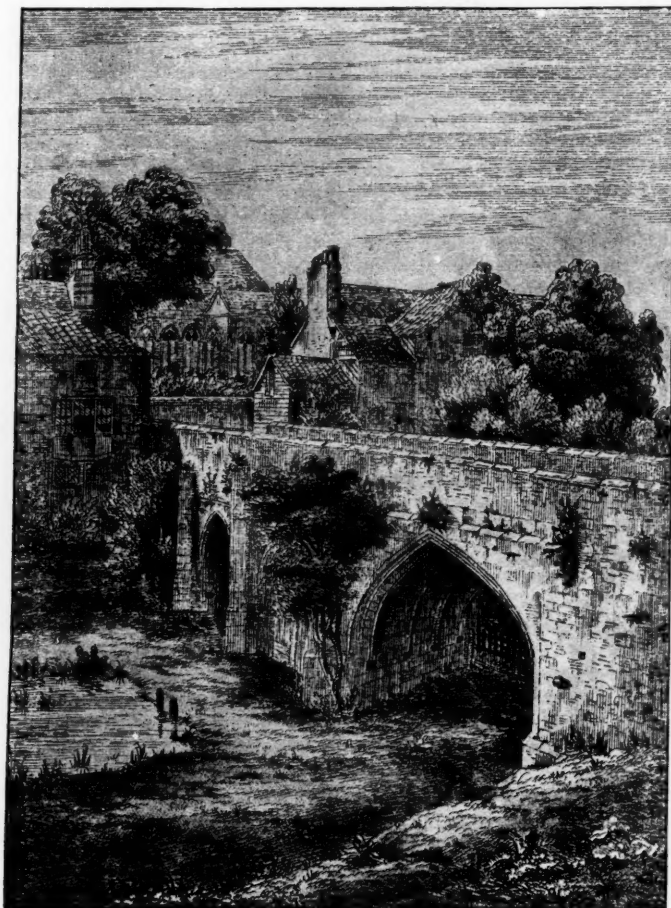
queens—Katharine of Valois and Elizabeth Woodville—and their connection with this monastery. By such means the history of South London is filled with human interest throughout the book.

"All round London, like beads upon a string, were dotted royal houses, palaces, and hunting places." Such is the rapid generalization with which the author opens his story of the royal houses of South London. The palace at Kennington had utterly disappeared when Camden wrote of it in 1607, and yet the story of royal personages and events connected with it occupies twenty pages in the volume before us. There are two illustrations, an elevation of the "Long Barn," as it was called in the beginning of last century, a building of stone and thatch, part of the offices of the palace, and a valuable sketch-map of the site derived from a plan of the house and grounds executed in 1636, when Charles I. leased the property to Sir Francis Cottington. This lease and plan related not to the ancient palace, but to a house rebuilt on the site between 1530 and 1630. No tradition of Kennington Palace has survived in the locality, although part of the ruins was still standing only a hundred years ago, the author tells us; but whether these were remains of the ancient palace, or of the later house, or of the "Long Barn," does not appear. The sketch-map (p. 71) is an interesting topographical document. The author's method of searching out illustrations of remains of buildings now utterly vanished will be appreciated by antiquaries. In many cases they are the documents on which reconstructions may be built up. A good instance of this is seen in the two pictures of remains of Bermondsey Abbey (pp. 52-53).

Next we have an account of Eltham Palace, enlivened by the author's comments on the ancient roads, and the immense expenditure in labour, time, provisions, and money involved when a sovereign signified the royal pleasure to keep Christmas in an outlying palace such as this. An illustration of the remains of the palace is given in Lysons' *Environs of London* (1796). A reproduction of this appears in the book (p. 91), and by the courtesy of the publishers is here reproduced.

Lysons thus describes the state of the demesne at that time: "The palace, etc., is included in Sir J. G. Shaw's lease, and the site is now occupied as a farm. The manor-lodge in the great park is now the manorial

and 55 in height. It has a wooden roof, wrought with Gothic ornaments. A ground plan of part of the ancient palace of Eltham, as taken in 1509, was engraved for Hasted's *History of Kent*. A view of the palace was



REMAINS OF ELTHAM PALACE.

residence. The principal buildings now remaining on the site of the palace are the great hall, where the Parliaments were held and the public entertainments given (now used as a barn), and some of the offices. The hall is 100 feet in length, 36 in breadth,

published upon a very small scale by Stent in 1650. There are several prints of it in its present ruinous state." Lysons also gives a picture of the hall of the palace.

There are some ruins yet remaining of the buildings added by Edward IV. The moat

and the old bridge may still be seen, the wall of the palace may still be made out. "But tradition," writes Sir Walter, "which has quite forgotten its memories of the Edwards and the Tudors, describes it as the palace of King John," and he gives a reproduction of a drawing of "King John's Palace, Kent," made in 1804. An excellent picture showing the present state of the moat and the bridge is also supplied, affording an interesting comparison with the illustration here reproduced. "There is not much difference in the present aspect," writes our author. "The moat has been opened again, the buildings represented on the south side of the hall have vanished, and the place itself, which had been used as a barn, is now empty, and is only thrown open for visitors, or the drilling of volunteers."

In a chapter entitled "A Forgotten Worthy," we have an attempted vindication of the character of Sir John Fastolf, and a graphic description of Southwark topography. Sir John Fastolf's house stood "on the banks of the river in Stoney Lane, which now leads from Tooley Street to Pickleherring Street." The author insists on the great difference between the characters of Fastolf and Shakespeare's Falstaff, and his vindication of the former, if accepted, would itself increase the disparity. But there is a book, evidently well known to the author, which states very simply the key to this question: "The time was not so long since these deeds were done that they and the personages which figured in them should be forgotten."* The great success of Shakespeare's historical plays argues a popular response to his themes, and that response came from tradition, not from learning. That there was a contemporary notorious character reflected in the portraiture of Falstaff is also hardly to be doubted, and in my *Shakespeare's London* I have attempted to identify him. If Sir Walter Besant's account of Eltham had not been restricted to the palace, he would probably have alluded to the scene of the robbery at Shooter's Hill on the Dover Road in Shakespeare's *Henry IV*. It is curious that the worthy who, according to my suggestion, is reflected in Falstaff, held property in the neighbourhood, and probably resided there. Fuller tells us that

at Mottingham, a hamlet attached to the Manor of Eltham, "on August 4, 1585, betimes in the morning . . . the ground began to sink in a field belonging to Sir Perceval Hart so much that three elm-trees were swallowed into the pit, and before ten of the clock no part of them could be seen." So much for the contemporary original of the character: now for the traditional. It is remarkable that Fastolf owned an inn in Southwark called the Boar's Head. In Shakespeare's time this circumstance was probably not forgotten. "Almost equidistant from the City end of the old bridge as this from the Southwark end was the Boar's Head of Shakespeare's plays. It is curious that the City inn was the scene of the revelries of Prince Hal and his fat friend Sir John Falstaff, and that the other, the Southwark Inn, was the property of Sir John Fastolf."*

The picture of the Surrey end of London Bridge from the High Street, Southwark, is inserted in this chapter on "A Forgotten Worthy." We are indebted to the publishers for their permission to reproduce it here. The picture is charming, and possesses much artistic merit. Based on contemporary views, it is, nevertheless, a product of imaginative art. There are no London views and maps earlier than the sixteenth century, but with the views of this period before him—they are invariably taken from the south, showing the Southwark end of the bridge and generally a portion of the High Street—the artist has ingeniously accentuated some features of an earlier date, and in all probability we have here a picture of the bridge-end and the street very much as it was when Fastolf was a resident in Stoney Lane. Since Sir Walter has devoted a chapter to him, Fastolf can no longer be "a forgotten worthy."

To pass over several chapters which provide very attractive browsing alike for the antiquary and the general reader, we reach "Chapter XIV. : In the Eighteenth Century," and the author starts in a gleeful canter, with loosened rein, over his favourite period, while we become somewhat out of breath in our efforts to keep up with him. In about twenty-four pages he takes us all over Southwark and its purlieus in the last century,

* Rendle's *History of Southwark*, p. 63.

* *Ibid.*, p. 59.

notes all the numerous inns and taverns, and peeps into several of them. Let the pictures mark his course: An old house in Stoney Street; St. Thomas's Hospital; some ancient houses in Long Walk, Bermondsey; Jamaica House, Bermondsey; Queen Elizabeth's Free Grammar School; ancient buildings, High Street (from an excellent drawing by T. Higham, 1820); The Falcon Tavern,

close of the journey (p. 270) "the Talbot" would appear to be a misprint for "the Tabard." The picture of "A South London Slum" (p. 267) has nothing to recommend it; all the other illustrations in the book are excellent, but this is an offence, and should be removed in subsequent editions.

In the next chapter the author is in his most serious, perhaps most characteristic,



SURREY END OF LONDON BRIDGE, FROM HIGH STREET, SOUTHWARK.

Bankside (but the gallant figures introduced by the artist here were intended for an earlier period?); an old mill, Bankside; John Bunyan's meeting-house, Bankside; the old town hall, Southwark; old houses in Ewer Street; courtyard of the Dog and Bear inn; the White Bear tavern; Allen Ropewalk; a South London slum; the old Tabard inn; St. George's Church. Perhaps the author himself grew a little tired, for towards the

vein. He gives us the story of the Debtors' Prison, the King's Bench, and the Marshalsea, and with truly artistic skill he summarizes the tragedy of these prisons in an eloquent soliloquy in St. George's Churchyard, "now a pretty garden, whose benches in fine weather are filled with people resting and sunning themselves." There beneath the flowers the poor broken debtor and the prosperous creditor are resting together.

"This churchyard," writes Sir Walter, "represents all that can be imagined of human patience, human work, human suffering, human degradation. Everything is here beneath our feet, and we sit among these memories unmoved, and enjoy the sunshine, and forget the sorrows of the past."

There are many other points which we had noted while reading this delightful volume, but our space is filled. In dealing with Lambeth Palace, the author appears to have denied himself a good deal (he gives no account of the library, for instance) in deference to other authors who have written on the subject. To one of these he makes a compliment which surely applies pre-eminently to himself: "Life-giver to the dust and ashes of ancient facts"! Indeed, these books on London which the author has periodically put forth during recent years—like all his work, clean and wholesome, manly in tone, written in beautiful English—constitute what may without extravagance be called the LONDON SAGA.

One or two notes by way of suggested corrigenda may be added: "One of the last visits of the King to Eltham was in the year 1575" (p. 94). The date is obviously a misprint. "Stow's *Annals*, continued by Hawes" (p. 216). Here, of course, the name should be Howes. The sentence on p. 113, where we are told that the park at Lambeth *stands* on the site of Vauxhall Gardens, might receive attention, and the remarks on Fawcett's statue on the same page are hardly worthy of the author or in keeping with his general tone and treatment.



Windham's Tour through France and Italy.

A.D. 1769-70.

(Continued from p. 18.)

"July 31, 1769.—Arrived at Fontainebleau. The road from Paris, for about forty miles, runs in a strait line, well paved and planted on both sides; the whole country

affording very pleasant prospects, and many fine country seats—extremely well cultivated. The Palace immensely large in a variety of old Gothic tastes. Several of the royal apartments are very rich in carving, gilding, etc. The gilding remarkably fine and fresh, tho' done 200 years ago. The country continues pleasant; the road planted chiefly with elm; but thro' the Bourbonnois for twenty miles together, the trees along the road are all wallnuts that flourish well, and this year extremely full of nuts of which they make an oil, that answers the purposes of olive oil, amongst the lower class of people. The river Loire adds much to the beauty of the prospects. The roads in general made at the expence of the public, the towns and parishes being obliged to find labourers to do that work at stated times. In the same manner are the trees planted on each side of the road, consisting of elms, poplars, chesnuts, wallnuts, according to the nature of the soil; the proprietor of the land where they grow having the benefit of them.

"August 4.—Arrived at Lyons, one of the first cities in France; the river Saone running thro' the middle of it; a ridge of hills surrounding one side covered with houses and public buildings, and the rapid Rhone running on the other side, with a number of country villas interspersed, make the environs a most pleasing and magnificent prospect. The Saone loses itself in the Rhone just below the town.

"The great square called *Belle Cour* is larger than any in Paris with a very magnificent equestrian statue of Louis 14th, in bronze that stands in the middle upon a marble pedestal richly adorned. The playhouse larger and handsomer than that at Paris. This town is full as big as Norwich.

"Left Lyons August the 11th in the way to Turin. The Posts not well regulated, so that I was obliged to deal with a voiturier for four horses the whole way, including all expence at the inns where one is obliged to stop; this method is convenient, but the way of travelling very tedious and irksome; for their custom is to go a foot's pace the whole way to Turin about 150 miles which they are six days in performing: but upon my return this way, I found means by the help of a couple of lousis, to work them into

a trot and so performed the journey in half the time. Passed thro' Pont Voisin the frontier town between France and Savoy, the roads good, planted chiefly with mulberry trees, which bear wild fruit and are only valuable upon account of the leaves for the silk worms.

"From Pont Voisin to Chamberry an old ugly town, the capital of Savoy, and so to Aigue Belle, a village of a romantic situation at the bottom of mountains which run all along this countrey, partly covered with a variety of underwood and partly with fir-trees growing from the top of the hill to the bottom, interspersed here and there with small parcells of land, cultivated and sown with different sorts of grain; and hemmed in on all sides with a low fence to prevent the sudden rains from washing away the fruit of their labours. The whole countrey is a scene of immense rocks calculated by nature more for the habitation of wild beasts than of the human species; the inhabitants a poor, diminutive, ugly race of people most of them with swellings upon their throats, and sore eyes occasioned, as it is thought, by drinking the snow water that falls from the mountains.

"Lanebourg, a village at the foot of Mount Cenis where I lay; and the next morning ascended the mountain upon a mule; it is excessively steep on this side. I reached the summitt in about an hour and a quarter. You then come to a plain that extends for about five miles bound with high rocks upon both sides. There is a handsome lake in the middle of it abounding with fine trout which travellers generally take the benefit of, by applying to the Rector of an Hospital which has been built there for the reception of poor passengers. Here you meet with a kind reception and better entertainment than could reasonably be expected in such a place. About two miles from this place the plain ends, and the descent begins on this side the mountain, and here you will very willingly quit your mule in order to be carried down in a little light chair, by two men accompanied by 4 or 6 others, by way of relays, according to your size and weight. The prospect from this station is far from being agreeable for where-as in ascending the mountain you meet with many places covered with a thin coat of earth; here you

see nothing but naked stone; the road you go down cut in a zigzag to humour the descent, part of it the natural stone, and part of it paved, wherever it was practicable. Down this crabbed way your chairmen carry you, stepping from stone to stone like so many goats, and I do not remember that they stumbled once with me, from the top to the bottom, which is about six miles. At the foot of the mountain is a village called Novalese, where my carriage met me again after having been taken to pieces and carried over the mountains upon mules. In my return back again this way in the month of December I was carried all the way in a chair. Set out from Novalese at 7 in the morning and arrived at Lanebourg at one at noon, *i.e.* six miles up the mountain five over the plain and three down.

"N.B. When the snow is thick enough, the general way of going down the mountain to Lanebourg is in a *traineau* which you perform in nine or ten minutes. From hence you are shewn part of the mountain called the strait of Assiette where in 1747 the King of Sardinia posted his troops in order to defend the pass against the French, commanded by the Chevalier de Belleisle, who lost his life in this desperate attack. And now I was glad to turn my back upon the mountains, for altho' Savoy is a countrey that affords a variety of romantic scenes, yet a repetition of them soon lessens the pleasure that arises from the novelty, and the road every now and then running so near the edge of a precipice made me very willing to give up my fine prospects for the sake of travelling upon level ground, tho' the views were more confin'd. Here begins the firtile and well cultivated plain of Lombardy that extends near 300 miles as far as Venice.

"La Brunetta is a strong fortress that defends the Pas de Suse, the first town in Piedmont. From hence to Turin is about 30 miles thro' a pleasant, fruitfull valley. . . . The road for 8 miles that leads to Turin is very fine, bordered on both sides with lofty elms; the city not large, but without exception, the best built and the handsomest in Europe. . . . The noble avenues that lead to them [the king's country-houses] and the extensive forests which the king has planted for the benefit of hunting, are objects much

admired by all travellers. The king's pallace makes but an indifferent shew on the outside, but the royal apartments consisting of an enfilade of 15 rooms are fitted up in a more elegant and richer taste than any I saw in France. The opera-house very spacious and elegant, the vocal and instrumental music said to surpass any entertainment of this kind of Italy, which is only during the Carnival. The churches here, above one hundred in number, are richly ornamented with a variety of marble and other decorations, and built in a very agreeable taste of architecture. In the great Cathedral of St. John, at the upper end, is the royal chappel of Saint Suaire (della santissima sindone) the undoubted napkin or hankerchief upon which was left the impression of our Savior.

"The valuable relick is preserved in a rich silver case, placed over the altar. This chappel was built by P. Guarini Theatin. The inside has a solemn majestic look, consisting entirely of black marble, with noble columns of the same, whose capitals and plinths are of brass richly covered and gilt. These columns support sev'ral arcades, over which are balconys for the music; where for a time the divine Farenilli wafted to heaven the soul of this devout king.

"The chief manufacture of this place is silk reckoned the best in Italy.

"In this king's dominions are near 400 convents and religious houses: a most heavy burthen upon the country! The king always talks the Piedmontaise language, which is the prevailing language at Court, in general with the rest of the people; so that the French and Italian being very little spoke among ladys of fashion, there are but very few houses where foreigners are agreeably received. Thus far the French language is spoke; it will likewise pass at the public inns in several towns in Italy; but unless a man talks the Italian language pretty fluently, he cannot pretend to enter into any society at those places where he chances to reside, and consequently will be deprived, in a great measure, of that information which he comes to receive.

"August 28.—Left Turin after staying there ten days, and so proceeded to Milan, thro' a country which for its cultivation and fertility deserves to be called the garden

of Italy; abounding with all the necessaries of life beyond any other part of it.

"Milan is a large town. The great church, a vast pile of building in the Gothic tast, all of marble with an imense number of statues and carved ornaments on the outside, much of which remains unfinished, and will very likely continue so, as there are considerable revenues set apart for their repairing and finishing this great Cathedral under the direction and administration of certain nobles of Milan, who are supposed to find their acc^t. in the management of this money, and which becomes the property of private persons whenever the purpose is answered for which this fund were destined. The whole of this edifice has no pleasing effect for want of certain symmetry, so essential in all kinds of Architecture. The same may be said of the inside, where no cost is spared in silver, brass, and carving, to adorn the choir and altar, yet with all this expence, there is nothing striking to the eye.

"The church plate and other presents in wrought silver, are immensely rich; with a service of massive gold enriched with precious stones. But the thing best worth seeing is the tomb of St. Carlo Borromeo. This is a little chappel under the church, shewn to you by the light of wax-tapers. The sides of it are most richly adorned with basso relievos, figures and other ornaments, all in massive silver. The body lyes upon an altar, extended in a shrine of rock chrystal dressed in episcopal robes, and ornamented with a variety of valuable jewels. . . . Over the great altar of the Cathedral is *Sacro Chiodo*, or nail of the cross, one of those which Constantine had employed in making a bitt for his war-horse, but which Theodosius gave to the church of Milan. This nail is carried in procession, every third of May.

"The paintings here are not very extraordinary. The Last Supper, by Paul Veronese in fresco, upon the wall in a convent is admired, but the two capital ones are a Holy Family by Raphael, and another by Leonard di Vinci; both in the sacristie of St. Marie prés Sans Celso.

"About 30 miles from Milan is the *Lago Maggiore*, in which lye the two islands, called the Borromean Islands; one of them belonging to . . . a descendant of the famous St.

Carlos. These islands from their situation are said to afford the most delightful prospects in the world, but as such views seldom answer the pompous description given of them, I had not courage to go so far out of my way, merely for the sake of a prospect. But what weighed most with me was the little probability of meeting with any views of a country more agreeable than what I have seen in some parts of England. This may look like partiality; however nothing that I saw afterwards in my progress thro' Italy, gave me any reason to alter my opinion. The views in Wales and Derbyshire are as romantic, and more pleasing than in Savoy, and the environs of London are infinitely more pleasing than those about Rome.

"The *Lago Maggiore* discharges itself into the river Tesin, a very rapid river which we crossed, tho' Silius Italicus represents it as a gentle stream; from this river a canal of 30 miles, cut by Francis the First, goes to Milan.

"The next town I stopped at was Verona; pleasantly situated upon the Adige, a rapid river that runs thro' the town. This place does not abound with many fine pictures. Some few there are worthy of note by Titian and P. Veronese; but the greatest and only curiosity worthy of admiration is the Roman Amphitheater, so much being preserved of it as to give a distinct idea of what it was. The vaults underneath, where the condemned malefactors and wild beasts were kept, and the passages that lead to the seats above, where the spectators were ranged according to their respective ranks, remain in their former state. These benches are of stone, raised a foot one above another, and allowing a foot for each person would contain upwards of 30,000 people, a most barbarous entertainment! at the same time the most magnificent and expensive that could possibly be exhibited, now reduced to a common bull-baiting upon the arena, and to such a theater as we have at Barthelomy Fair, where farces are acted for the diversion of the inhabitants. And this was all they were able to do, when the present Emperor of the Romans came to their town in June last.

"VINCENZA.—The theater here, built by Palladio in imitation of the antient Roman theater, is well worth seeing; the spectators are placed as in the amphitheater upon

benches in a circular form. It seems extraordinary that theaters are not [built] at this day upon a better plan, when they have such originals to imitate. . . .

"PADUA, a dirty ugly town, and has at present but little to boast of, unless it be its great antiquity, being originally built, according to Virgil and Livy, by Antenor, Prince of Troy, who after that siege came and built a town here, and as a confirmation of this piece of history, they pretend to shew you his tomb. The church of St. Anthony is most magnificently adorned with marble monuments, statues, silver ornaments, etc., the holy chapel where the Saint lyes, is very rich and in a good tast. St. Anthony is the tutelar saint of this place, and is as great a favourite here as St. Januarius is at Naples. From Padua, a pleasant journey of eight hours, down the Brenta to Venice. The banks on both sides of this river have a pleasant, cheerfull aspect, being adorned with a variety of country villas and gardens, belonging to the nobility.

(To be continued.)



Roman Ribchester.

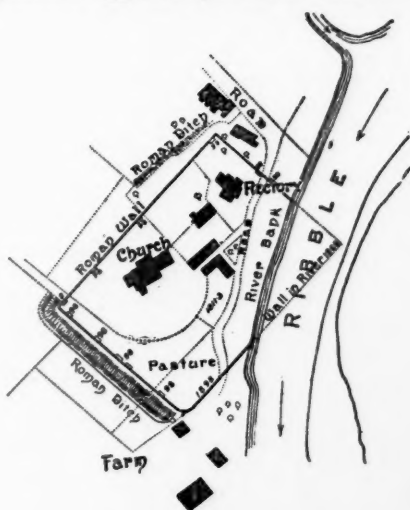
BY JOHN GARSTANG.

RIBCHESTER,* a village hidden away in the valley of the Ribble, in Lancashire, has long attracted the attention of antiquaries. In 1540 Leland† wrote of its "great squarid stones, voutes and antique coyns"; and though from time to time Roman relics, some of them of unusual type, have been dug up in the churchyard or exposed in the river bank, it is only quite recently that the nature of the station has been fully determined. Ten years ago the foundations of the camp-wall on three sides were found, and further excavations in the autumn of last year have now determined the whole

* Ordnance Map, No. LIV. 14, Lancashire.

† "Itinerary," Hearne's *Leland*, iv., 1, p. 22. For complete bibliography of Ribchester, see *Archæological Survey of Lancashire* (Harrison).

outline, whilst answering in part some of the questions suggested by its several features.



In point of size, the station was not unlike others of the North, having a rectangular area of six acres, its longest sides being 600 feet. It is placed on the right bank of the Ribble, just below its junction with Duddell Brook, and it seems to have been built with its sides parallel to these two streams, at a distance of three or four hundred feet; but both have now encroached considerably, with the result that the eastern angle has been washed away by the river.* This position places its corners in the cardinal points.

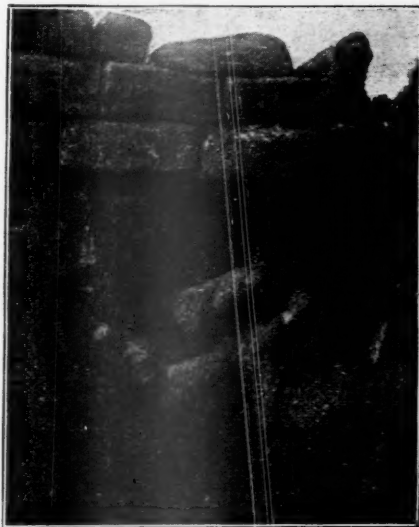
The ditch which surrounds the whole fort was of the "fossa punica" type, 20 feet broad† by 7 feet deep. Its outside line, where it descended steeply, was 45 feet from the camp-wall, thus leaving a sloping space between the water and the wall. On the north-west and south-west sides the ditch is easily traceable, though on the former it has been partly filled for an extension of the churchyard. On the latter side it is entire, the sudden fall of its outside line being most noticeable, and in places its depth is still

* See also Stukeley, *Iter Boreale*, p. 36.

† The breadth of water would vary with the depth; the sediment deposited on the banks shows thickly to a height of 6 feet.

5 or 6 feet. This fact was a useful guide to the first excavators.

The question arising from the construction of its walls has also been answered, the last series of excavations showing that the boulder stones, which have been previously described as walling,* are really the foundations, and lie below the Roman surface-level. In the southern angle the wall stands to a height of 6 feet, the top course being only a few inches from the surface. A section here, where the destruction has been least, may be regarded as typical of the whole. It



shows a foundation of boulders compactly fitted with clay, 3 feet high and 8 feet thick; above this is a course of faced walling, 13 inches high, which supports the upper courses, of which three remain, each 5 or 6 inches high. The lowest course is set 4 inches behind the upper ones, which thus overhang to that extent. The whole wall is shown from another section,† where the outer facing also remains, to have been 6 feet thick, and was of the usual type.

Level with the bottom of the boulders,

* There are only two places in which the facing of the walls remains. Elsewhere there are only foundations *in situ*.

† About the middle of the south-west side.

and perpendicular to the length of the wall, but not underlying it (at a depth generally of 5 to 7 feet), is an arrangement of black-oak spars, 4 inches by 3 inches, reaching inwards in three lengths 20 feet, lying parallel at a distance apart equal to their own breadth,* covered with 3 feet of stiff light clay. This clay brings the level to the top of the boulders, and above it in the section is a black layer of decayed vegetable fibre or charred wood, which marks the Roman surface-level, and on which or above it most of their relics are to be found. This clay may have been formed by natural process since the Roman occupation; it is almost incredible that so great a quantity could have been placed by hand. It is thus probable that the Romans found the land marshy, which is consistent with its present state. After levelling the original surface with dark clay, they placed upon this the spars, above which they raised to a height of 3 feet an artificial surface of earth as a precaution against damp. If, as is possible, houses were built against the wall,† the oak would afford an extra foundation. This is, however, only the most apparent explanation of a unique feature. Excavations (1888 and 1898) and the record of Stukeley‡ leave no doubt but that the arrangement was uniform all round the inside of the camp-wall.

Oak is used at some stations on the Wall. Some of the walls of Silchester have oak in the foundations, while the platform built into the wall at Carlisle is also of oak. In non-Roman work it is less rare. Mr. Young has found traces at Burghead. French writers,§ too, mention the use of oak

arranged longitudinally and transversely in the walls at Murcens, as described by Cæsar at Avaricum.* But for the oak to underlie the walls at Ribchester is the exception, and, in fact, is only found in one section. Some of the spars are roughly pointed at the ends nearest the wall, and they narrow inwards towards the other end. It is needless to add that they form a part of the original design, and cannot be accounted for as *sudes valli* fallen from their position.

Excavations made in 1888 revealed a similar but more elaborate sub-structure of oak in the northern angle—the foundations, as it now seems, of a doorway through the corner. Two oak posts, the one stout and well preserved, the other decayed, remained in position at opposite sides of the opening. At a depth of five feet there was a layer of oak shingles somewhat lighter than those described. Below this was a tightly-fitting floor of oak planks, stretching across the entrance, and underlying the ends of the foundations of the converging walls.† Below this, again, and at right angles to the corner, were four stout beams of oak about a foot thick. The top layer, moreover, reached out of the camp to a distance of 15 feet.‡ Over it, corresponding to the clay described in the section, was dry clay and soil to a height of 2 feet or more, at which level was found a pavement (two layers of river-stones, "cobbles"), apparently the Roman surface. The unique position and character of the gate renders it highly improbable that it was second-century work; but it was probably Roman. There are no signs of a turret in the north corner, though there are in the west and south.

The only other entrance hitherto discovered is in the south corner, although much of the wall on the south-west and north-west sides has now been followed. Here a postern of somewhat interesting type, descending two steps from a paved way,§ leads out between two walls and turns towards a well immediately outside the fort (upon the Berm).

* In some cases further apart. See Smith's *Ribchester* (Shortt, *Roman Ribchester*, in the same), p. 11.

† Whitaker, *History of Whalley*, 3rd edition, 1818, p. 17. The foundations of two parallel walls, 24 yards apart, strongly cemented, between them a flagged floor. The position places this building against the newly-found south-east wall. Dr. Whitaker thought this was part of the "temple," but his restoration is untenable. The position suggests a wall-tower.

‡ "I saw the joists and beams of a floor of oak, and such floors are to be seen along the whole bank." This was in 1725; the river has since encroached, but some traces of oak may be found when the river is low.

§ See *La Religion des Gaulois* (Bertrand), XVIII. Leçon.

* *De Bello Gallico*, vii. 23.

† Smith's *Ribchester* (Shortt, *Roman Ribchester*, in the same), p. 12.

‡ Excavations, 1898.

§ This street-line is traceable along the south-east side 20 feet from the wall, being about 8 feet broad in places; but it varies.

This well is in two courses; the upper one is a modern addition, the lower may be Roman. The postern, however, is an obvious reconstruction,* the original plan having been a corner turret, half of which remains, seven courses high, foundations of the other half being traceable.† The steps must have led down to the turret originally, and from its entrance two walls were afterwards built, forming a passage 3 feet wide and 25 feet long. Where it passes through the camp-wall the pressure on each side was supported by blocks of stone of unusual size. On the flags of this passage was found a coin (2 B) of Domitian. A point of some interest is suggested by the preservation of half of the turret. The narrow space between this and the wall of the passage had a paved floor at a level of 3 feet above that of the passage, and as the whole was entirely enclosed, it served no obvious purpose, nor did the relics found within furnish any clue. Many other points of interest arise in connection with this fort: the whole subject will shortly be treated in more detail than is possible now.

Ribchester has been prolific in inscriptions. Some of them,‡ with other facts, determine the name of the station as Bremetennacum. It is even possible to fix with some probability the limits of Roman occupation, with the help of some comparative evidence. There is nothing in the inscriptions, pottery or relics of a date necessarily earlier than the middle of the second century, a period which, however, is well represented.§ The inscription of Marcus Aurelius thus probably dates the completion of its building, A.D. 161. This is compatible with, and may possibly

account for, the absence of the name from Ptolemy's notes; and its record in the Antonine Itinerary. The only suggestion of an earlier foundation is the contour of a Samian bowl,* and the gradually increasing number of first-century bronze coins.

Bremetennacum, then, if the strongest, was not the earliest station in Lancashire. At Lancaster there was one yielding an inscription of Trajan, which also satisfies well the conditions of Ptolemy's Rigodunum.† At Walton, near the estuary of the Ribble, again, there was a station with earlier traces,‡ which was probably a "mansio" on the first route from Chester to Lancaster. Judging from the Domesday record of Lancashire, and its present state, the middle tract of upland that lies between the Pennine Hills and the marshes of the coast must have been covered with primeval scrub; and the earliest route to the north avoided this woodland. But on or after the completion of Ribchester, under Marcus Aurelius, a straight road was driven through to it from Manchester. From this time Walton fell obviously into disuse. The inscriptions of Ribchester are now fairly continuous until the fourth century begins.

There is no satisfactory evidence to show that the fort was destroyed by the Caledonians in the raid of the end of the second century, as some writers have supposed. The burning of an inscription was more probably contemporary with the final sack of the place, and the activity in building evidenced in the early third century was by no means confined to Ribchester. The last inscription was on an altar to Mars, A.D. 298-305,§ and the last date of all recorded is that of a coin of the joint ruler Valens.

The fate of Roman Ribchester was to be carried by storm. On the north-west side its ruin is complete, and all that remains is mingled with charcoal and soot. The roof

* This was pointed out by Mr. Haverfield.

† It was of the usual form, with an entrance in the middle of its inner side. Its walls were 3 feet thick, and it enclosed apparently a space 12 feet by 10 feet. The walls of the passage built through it are 2 feet thick.

‡ Watkin, *Roman Lancashire*, p. 133.

§ (i.) A building inscription (*Corpus*, vii. 225). (ii.) A milestone (Horsley, *Britannia Romana*, *Lancs.*, Fig. 3, and p. 302). This is thought by Hübner (*No. 1171*) to be the same as that of Dodsworth (Cotton MSS., Jul. vi., p. 298), and of Leigh (*Nat. Hist. Lancs.*, Plate I., fig. 20, and Bk. III., p. 7); but there are arguments against this. (iii.) A gold fibula, 1887; dated by Mr. Arthur Evans (*Manchester Courier*, September 3, 1898).

* On this interesting but difficult subject see Mr. Haverfield, in *Trans. Cumb. and Westm. Arch. Soc.*, xv.

† *Manchester Courier*, September 3 and October 12, 1898. See also Mr. Bradley in *Archæologia*, vol. xlviii.: his map must, of course, be compared with one of England drawn on the same projection as that used by Ptolemy.

‡ *Hist. Soc. Lancashire and Cheshire*, vol. viii., p. 129.

§ *Corpus*, vii. 220.

of one building* fell on the dead bodies of men. The assault came, then, from the north, and subsequent spoliation is typical of the Picts. On present evidence it may have taken place as early as A.D. 367, the year generally assigned to the most wide-reaching of their inroads. But the fort may have been already evacuated; the human remains are comparatively few; nor is it certain whether they were of Roman soldiers or provincials. Once the walls had been burst the unhappy fugitives retreated to the strongest buildings, which were burned over their heads.



Kepler, King James I., and Sir Henry Wotton.

BY THE REV. W. C. GREEN, M.A.

A CURIOUSLY assorted trio some may think; but a passage in a letter written by the last associates the first two, and a search in the great astronomer's works and letters (most excellently and thoroughly edited by Frisch) shows him on more than one occasion writing to or of King James I.

Sir H. Wotton was, as is well known, for many years a foreign ambassador of King James. In this capacity he spent several months in Germany in 1620. But few probably have seen the account he gives of an interview with Kepler in that year. It is in a letter to Lord Bacon, written late in December, 1620, thanking him for three copies of his *Novum Organum*. After speaking with delight of the work, Wotton continues:

"I owe your Lordship even by promise some trouble this way; I mean, by the commerce of philosophical experiments, which surely of all other is the most ingenuous traffick. Therefore, for a beginning, let me tell your Lordship a pretty thing which I saw coming down the Danube, though more remarkable for the application than for the theory. I lay a night at Lintz, the Metropolis

of the higher Austria, but then in very low estate, having been newly taken by the Duke of Bavaria, who *blandiente fortunâ* was gone on to the late effects. There I found Kepler, a man famous in the sciences, as your Lordship knows, to whom I purpose to convey from hence one of your books, that he may see we have some of our own that can honour our King, as well as he hath done with his *Harmonica*. In this man's study I was much taken with the draught of a Landskip on a piece of paper, methoughts masterly done: whereof enquiring the author, he bewrayed with a smile it was himself; adding, he had done it *non tanquam pictor, sed tanquam mathematicus*. This set me on fire. At last he told me how. He hath a little black Tent (of what stuff is not much importing), which he can suddenly set up where he will in a Field, and it is convertible, like a Windmill, to all quarters at pleasure, capable of not much more than one man, as I conceive, and perhaps at no great ease; exactly close and dark, save at one hole about an inch and a half in the diameter; to which he applies a long perspective Trunk with a convex glass fitted to the said hole, and the concave taken out at the other end, which extendeth to about the middle of this erected Tent; through which the visible radiations of all the objects without are intruded, falling upon a paper which is accommodated to receive them; and so he traceth them with his pen in their natural appearance, turning his little Tent round by degrees, till he hath designed the whole aspect of the Field. This I have described to your Lordship, because I think there might be good use made of it for Chorography; for otherwise to make Landscips by it were illiberal, though surely no painter can do them so precisely."

We have here a remarkable picture of Kepler busy with his *camera obscura*, while war was beginning to blaze around. Wotton was employed in 1620 at various Courts and Councils, fruitlessly labouring for peace while all were making them ready for battle. "On the 20th of August," writes Gardiner, "Upper Austria unconditionally bowed to Ferdinand as their lord and master." What Wotton calls "the late effects" was the Battle of Prague, fought on November 8.

* See Whitaker, *Whalley*, 4th edition, pp. 35, 36.

There is a despatch from Wotton to King James, written (as he says) a month and a half after the battle, therefore late in December. He says in it that he is "preparing towards Venice in this hard season." Several expressions in the letter to Lord Bacon show it to have been written about the same time. Kepler had "honoured the King in his *Harmonica*." Without further information, we might not understand this; but we find that Kepler had dedicated his *Harmonica* to King James. Nor only that, for he had also sent to James, with a dedication, his treatise, *De Nova Stella*, in 1606. Kepler was then living at Prague; now, in 1620, he is Imperial astronomer, living at Linz. Here are extracts from the dedicatory letter prefixed to the *Harmonica* in 1619. I translate the Latin:

"To the most Serene King, etc.

"What worthier, what fitter Patron could I have chosen, than that King, who has given such proofs of his study of Platonic wisdom, who, when yet a boy, thought the astronomy of Tycho Brahe worthy of the ornaments of his genius?"

I find it stated in a life of Kepler, in Hutton's *Dictionary of Mathematics*, that James, when as King of Scotland he went to Denmark for his bride, the daughter of Frederic II., visited Tycho Brahe at his observatory, Uranibourg, made him some presents, and wrote a copy of Latin verses in his praise. This was in 1589-90. James was then twenty-three years old, but the Latin *puer* may be used of that age. I am not able to discover James's Latin verses.

Kepler soon after proceeds:

"Indeed it was an assurance befitting a Christian man, this assurance that there was a God who governed all the melody of human life; it was a patience befitting the greatness of God, for such a man not to be offended or abandon hopes by reason of the long duration of dissonances: considering that it is not the providence of God that acts slowly, but our individual lives that fly quickly."

Here is, I think, an obvious recollection of 2 Pet. iii. 3, 8, 9.

"And why from you, O renowned King, before all others did my desires bid me expect some beginning of the restoration of

concord? To explain this at large is beside my present purpose: but none shall bar me from touching on this acknowledged part of the glory of your achievements: that you, since attaining the Kingdom of England, have within a short time given to it in common with the Kingdom of Scotland, the name of Great Britain, have united in friendship peoples long at variance, and have from both provinces tempered together one Government and Harmony (for what else is Government but Harmony?).

"This your work at home seemed to me to contain an omen that you would also abroad accomplish a greater and more wonderful work. . . . Which I have followed both with my silent prayers and in a publicly expressed prophecy in my book about the New Star which should blaze forth as a carbuncle.

"Wherefore to you a Harmonizer (*Harmoniste*) I the more firmly resolved to sing in due time my universal Harmonies. . . .

"And so I beg your Majesty with favourable look to regard this my work; and by the examples of the Concord that is resplendent from the visible works of God to confirm and rouse up in yourself the zeal for concord and peace ecclesiastical and civil.

"Written at Linz on the Danube, Febr. 13, MDCXIX."

This was the year before Wotton's letter and the Battle of Prague.

The earlier treatise of Kepler sent to King James was about the new star in Serpentarius, which was observed by Kepler in 1604; it disappeared about the end of 1605. Here are extracts from the letter sent to King James with this book, in May, 1606:

"From the times of Alphonso of Arragon Europe has had no more learned King than your Majesty."

"This little book pleads the cause of true astrology, and (as the emblem on the title-page shows) has collected some precious grains from a dirty dunghill. . . . Making distinction between astrological trifles and the nature of things."

The "emblem" of the title-page is a picture of a hen and chickens, with the motto, *Grana dat e fimo scrutans*.

The copy of the book sent to James was inscribed thus :

"To a philosopher King a servant philosopher,
To a Plato a Diogenes,
To the Lord of the Britains one who at Prague begs
a pittance of an Alexander,
From his hired tub sends and commends
his philosophizing."

Kepler's attitude towards astrology is made plain by part of a letter written to the mathematician, Thomas Harriot, later in 1606. King James had, it is evident, condemned astrology as then understood. Nor did Kepler defend its follies. Here are his words to Harriot, October 2, 1606 :

"I hear you have got into trouble from astrology. I beseech you say, do you think it deserves that you should suffer thus for its sake? For myself, I have already ten years ago discarded the divisions into twelve equal parts, the houses, dominations, triplicities, and the like : retaining only the aspects, and changing astrologic nonsense into harmonic doctrine. You will see my opinion in my little work *Of a new Star*. When you have read this, please let me have your judgment thereon. Though I defend truth for its own sake, and not to win any man's favour, yet I think King James can have found nothing to condemn in what I retain, if it have been faithfully put before him."

To this letter Harriot sent an answer on December 2, 1606.

In all this it is noteworthy that Kepler did regard King James as really learned, also as a peace-maker, the very character which that King professed to aim at. Another striking fact which appears from Kepler's letters is, how much communication there was, in spite of difficulties, between the scientific men and scholars of those times. And, further, it appears plainly by Kepler's letters (which are numerous), written in Latin, and not bad Latin either, with abundance of illustrations from Latin and even Greek authors, that he was a good all-round scholar as well as famous in the sciences.

All biographies of Kepler state that Wotton, in or about 1620, invited him to come over to England, assuring him of a favourable reception. But in the account given by Wotton to Bacon of his interview with Kepler nothing is said of this invitation, given some four

months before ; yet certainly no other meeting of Kepler and Wotton can have taken place in 1620. This perplexed me for some time, but by searching Kepler's letters the original authority is found for this fact in a letter written to a friend, Bernegger, dated from Linz, August 29, 1620.

"The illustrious Lord Wotton (*Dominus Wotonus*) showed me no less kindness in visiting me ; it grieved me that he was in such haste to pass on. He urges me to come over to England. But I must not of my own free motion abandon this my second country, lest I be thought ungrateful ; unless, perchance, I seem more ungrateful in continuing to burden my countrymen here ; but that is for them to look to. I see civil war blazing in Germany, the conflagration spreading, the flames encroaching. Shall I therefore cross the sea, whither Wotton invites me ? I who love the mainland, dread the confinement of an island, forebode its dangers ? I dragging with me a weak wife and a flock of children ?"

The time of this letter was just after Wotton's visit, which cannot have been before August 20 (the date of the submission of Upper Austria to Maximilian) ; and the time of Wotton's being at Linz is further fixed by a letter of Wotton to King James, dated September 7, from Vienna, where he had been for ten days, after spending four days more of delay in coming down the Danube. Thus August 24 is about the latest possible day for the interview of Kepler and Wotton. Kepler's description of Wotton's hurried visit just tallies with Wotton's letter. What hopes exactly were held out of patronage in England one cannot tell ; it may well be doubted whether King James at that time would or could have done much more for Kepler than his Imperial patron. Kepler means Austria by his "second country."

He succeeded Tycho Brahe as Mathematician to the Emperor in 1601 ; he had been at Prague in Bohemia. His apprehensions about the dangers of an island are amusing. Erasmus had lived in England and found it tolerable ; and a German astronomer, Herschel, a century and a half later, found a home there. Kepler's income from the Imperial treasury was not large, nor (it is believed) very regularly paid. But Frisch, his latest biographer, thinks that his poverty

as a pensioner of the Austrian Court has been exaggerated; and certainly from his letters which I have read—and I have read many—it does not appear to have distressed him much.

Wotton's description of the revolving roof over the camera will remind us of similar appliances to telescopes now, as in the case of the Northumberland telescope at the Cambridge Observatory.

The passage in Wotton's letter attracted the notice of Carlyle, who quotes part of it in his *Frederick the Great*. But, as it seems to me, he wastes needless pity on Kepler, and even seems rather to sneer at him as a son of Adam who, when fifty years old, had not secured to himself more of this world's gear. Kepler himself seems to have been in no way a discontented man; he sought truth, as he says, not man's favour. Many passages in his writings are beautiful, and breathe a spirit of humble piety most refreshing to find in a man of his genius. But such in spirit was also our Sir I. Newton; such also was Professor Adams, a great discoverer in our own century (whom the present writer had the privilege of knowing well).

I shall venture to end this fragment with a quotation from Kepler. It concludes his *Epitome of Copernican Astronomy*, where he foretells future discovery of things yet unknown:

"This, I say, and other like things, lie hid in the all-comprising volumes of futurity; nor can they be learnt before God, the Controller of the ages, shall have opened that book to mortals, Himself immortal. To whom be praise honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen."



Notes on Some Kentish Churches.

BY J. RUSSELL LARKBY.

I. ST. MARTIN'S, EYNSFORD.

AS is common with many English villages, Eynsford has little of interest to the antiquary outside its parish church. It has been the scene of no great historical event, and

remains to-day practically what it always has been—a simple, quiet, and typical English village, a place of which few people outside the immediate locality have ever heard; for Eynsford lies somewhat beyond the limit of the cornet-blowing tripper—perhaps to the advantage of its simplicity and quietude. The village is situated on the stream dignified by the name River Darent, about ten miles south-east of Bromley, and is surrounded on all sides by the picturesque Kentish hills. The etymology of the word Eynsford is somewhat obscure; possibly it was derived from the Anglo-Saxon word "ey," *i.e.*, water ("the ford of the water"?). The width of the stream in former times would, of course, necessitate a ford, and whether this is the proper derivation or not, it is in some measure supported by the marked widening of the stream in the centre of the village.

The church of St. Martin (Bishop of Tours, A.D. 473) is placed on slightly rising ground, and forms the centre of the modern village of Eynsford. It consists of an apsidal chancel—a rather rare feature in Kentish churches—a nave, south transept, north aisle, western porch, and western tower capped by a slender shingled spire. In the main, the church is Early English, and the only undoubted Norman work in the fabric is an exceptionally fine doorway, here illustrated (Fig. 1). At the present time it is not quite in its original condition, as during the last century a wretched stone block was inserted immediately above the later pointed arch which carries the door. A rather peculiar effect is produced by the unusual character of the left pillar. The porch also contains two stone coffins of the usual shape, but their present position is by no means safe or favourable to their effective preservation. Why cannot such objects be given a place of safety inside the church itself? Although of no great value, they nevertheless constitute links with the past, and for that very reason should be guarded with every care.

Entering the church, we see the north aisle, which does not extend to the east end, is divided from the nave by two Early English arches, supported by a single octagonal column, and on the north and south walls of this aisle are three corbels,

one of which, here illustrated (Fig. 2), bears a somewhat repulsive expression.

Turning to the south transept, which is Early English, and now used as an organ-chamber, we see nine lancets of plain glass, three in the east, west, and south walls respectively. The east wall of the transept bears evidence of having been at one time pierced by an aperture, possibly used as a "squint," but it is now walled up, and the walling appears to be of an early date.

Next giving our attention to the chancel, we see on the north wall the remains of two

Contrary to a very general rule in village churches of this neighbourhood, the font at the west end is not modern, but of late sixteenth-century work. It is octagonal in form, with a plain base, the curved facets of the bowl being charged with shields and Tudor roses alternately. One wonders what has become of the ancient fonts of so many village churches. Perhaps the discovery of some of them serving the purpose of cattle-troughs is, in a small measure, an explanation of their disappearance.* One would think that, as the font plays a really important



Early English arches, similar in style to those of the north aisle, and these may at one time have opened out into a Lady chapel, although the north aisle wall as it now stands shows no trace of an arch to connect the Lady chapel with that portion of the church. The round-headed chancel lights are, I believe, quite modern; but where the chancel has not been restored, it is Early English, the south wall of which still retains a fine piscina. Perhaps it is needless to state that St. Martin's has suffered from the restoration epidemic.

part in the teaching of the Church, it would be preserved with care, instead of being at the mercy of any builder or contractor who cares to offer a price for it, when "a new and handsome font has been presented by a member of the parish."

On the extreme west wall of the church

* The very ancient font of the church at Goodmanham, Yorks, was for many years used as a cattle-trough. Popular tradition asserts it to be the font in which Coifi, the priest of the Temple of "Godmundingham," was baptized. It is like many other popular traditions, and to be received with caution.

are two corbels of similar style to those on the north aisle wall; one wears a fragmentary crown, but has a really fine face; the other is a representation of a winged

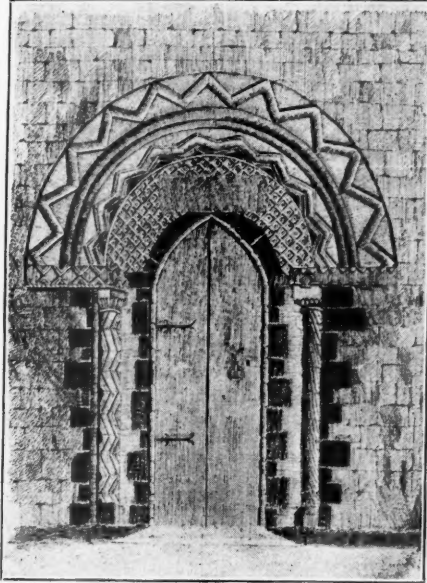


FIG. 1.

being, with the hands held palms outwards immediately in front of the breast.

The south wall of the chancel has a fair Perpendicular window (of plain glass), with transom, the lower lights of which are trefoiled. It is shown in the sketch, next a poor two light window of modern date.

The interior effect of St. Martin's is ex-



FIG. 2.

ceptionally cold, a result due to the large number of windows, and also to the complete absence of coloured glass, even the chancel lights being plain, but for all that decidedly superior to the too often flimsy

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designs and ill-assorted colours so characteristic of modern glass.

In some future papers we hope to give accounts of other churches in the neighbourhood of Eynsford, one or two of which, such as St. Paul's, Cray, and West Wickham, are of considerable interest, the former for its pier capitals, the latter for its old glass and chancel screen.



Antiquarian News.

[We shall be glad to receive information from our readers for insertion under this heading.]

IN addition to the valuable collection of art treasures—plate, enamels, bijouterie, carving in boxwood, glass, arms and armour, and other articles, being the principal works of art in the smoking-room at Waddesdon—that are bequeathed to the British Museum under the will of the late Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild, the testator, says the *Jewish Chronicle*, also bequeaths to the Trustees of the British Museum, "to exhibit and use the same as part of the collection of that museum," a book of drawings, entitled "Funeral Processions," and all his illuminated missals and manuscripts. It is estimated that the value of the entire bequest to the nation is fully £300,000.

IN the reconstruction of the Newcastle Packet Inn, on the Sandside, at Scarborough, a very old relic of the town in bygone days is being obliterated. The hostelry dates from the middle of the fifteenth century, a crocket and Gothic canopy carving in very low relief, interspersed with battlements and vine-leaves, fixing the date as nearly as possible. During the excavating of the cellar a fragment of the old town wall was unearthed. The building was partially constructed of old ships' timbers, which are still quite sound. The Town Hall, subsequently known as the Bethel Chapel, stood close by, and from the fact that the word "Justicia" appears prominently on part of the ancient woodwork of the inn, it is surmised that justice may have been dispensed here at one time. A few yards to the north on the castle crag was the tower in which George Fox, founder of the Society of Friends, was imprisoned in 1666, and a few doors away is now standing the house in which Richard III. lodged on the occasion of his visit to Scarborough in 1484.

Alexander Posonyi, an old Vienna "original," died in that city, early in February, at a great age, leaving a collection containing more than 30,000 autographs. He purchased, says the Vienna correspondent of the *Daily News*, letters and manuscripts of Michel Angelo, Marie Antoinette, Luther, Calvin, Schiller, Goethe, Beethoven, and Richard

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Wagner, documents dating from the eleventh century, letters from Canova, and old Hebrew and Hussite writings. He is believed to have invested more than 200,000 florins in the collection, and was so proud of it that he only once parted with any part of it, which was when he sold a collection of drawings by Dürer to the National Gallery of Berlin. Contrary to expectations, he did not leave the collection to any public institution, but to be divided among his heirs.

The death has occurred, at the age of ninety-seven years, of Matthew Laking, who is believed to have been the oldest bell-ringer in England. He lived at Tetney, near Horncastle, Lincolnshire, over eighty years, but recently removed to Grimsby. He commenced bell-ringing at the age of fifteen years, and for no less than eighty-two years had been a ringer. He rang the church bells at the death of George III., and on the accession of George IV., William IV., and Queen Victoria, and he also rang at most of the chief events in the reign of Her Majesty.

The crazy but interesting old house, No. 7, Johnson's Court, Fleet Street, in which Dr. Johnson lived from 1765 to 1776, with his small group of dependents, which included Mr. Robert Levett and poor blind Mrs. Williams, is shortly to be pulled down to make way for an extension of a neighbouring hotel, the proprietors of which own the property, and formerly used it as a place of accommodation for their waiters. The old house leans forward slightly, and shares with a next-door neighbour northward the distinction of being the most dilapidated tenement in the court. It is of three stories, with a garret panelled, but with no look-out at the back now. This garret was the apartment occupied by Levett.

A few weeks ago the Otley magistrates heard a case in which a curious Yorkshire statute hiring custom was disclosed. A Bawtry farmer, John Harrison, claimed £4 damages from Walter Leach, a labourer, of Ilkley, for breach of contract. The defendant was engaged at the Otley statute hiring fair to serve the complainant a year for £23, and Leach was paid 10s. as a "godspenny" to bind the contract. He failed to turn up on the stipulated date, and hence the claim for damages and for the return of the "godspenny." The defendant was ordered to pay £3.

SALES.

MESSRS. SOTHEY, WILKINSON, AND HODGE commenced on Tuesday, and continued yesterday, a sale of books and manuscripts, comprising a portion of the library of the late Mr. John Lettsom Elliot, books the property of Mr. Alfred Westby, and from other sources. The principal lots included: Lord Lilford, Coloured Figures of the Birds of the British Islands, 1891-97, second edition, in 7 vols., £37 (Bumpus). The Whole Byble, translated by Myles Coverdale, "and newly oversene and correcte," printed by Christopher Froschover, Zurich, 1550,

wanting eight preliminary leaves, and five leaves at the end of the New Testament, some leaves defective, sold not subject to return, £24 5s. (Ridler). D. Lysons, Environs of London, 1811, extra illustrated by the insertion of upwards of 400 additional plates, and extended from 2-6 vols., £9 5s. (Tregaskis). A collection of original manuscript anthems by Charles Wesley, including one "performed by the late admirable vocal performer, Mr. Bartleman," together 78 leaves, in 1 vol., £12 (Jones). An imperfect copy of The Byble, translated by Thomas Matthewe, 1549, £9 5s. (Fowle). F. Rabelais, Œuvres, 1553, the first collected edition of the four books published during Rabelais' lifetime, £19 (Jones). R. Ackermann, History of the Public Schools, 1816, with numerous finely coloured plates, £8 5s. (Bain). Ovid, Les Métamorphoses d'Ovide, translated by the Abbé Banier, 1767-71, with 140 plates by Boucher, Gravelot, Eisen, Moreau, etc., £55 (Jones). T. Rowlandson, Loyal Volunteers of London and Environs, 1799, £20 15s. (Parsons). Marguerite de Valois, Histoire des Amans Fortunez, printed at Paris by B. Prevost, 1558, £33 (Jones), the first and very rare edition of the Heptameron. J. de la Fontaine, Fables Choiesies, mises en vers, 1756-59, with 275 fine plates by Oudry, £14 (Fortune). J. R. Hakluyt, Divers Voyages touching the Discoverie of America, etc., 1582, very rare, sold with all faults, £15 (Quaritch). The two days' sale realized £908 15s.—*Times*, January 26.

Messrs. Hodgson and Co. sold recently the following important items: Dugdale's Monasticon, 8 vols., £18. Surtees' Durham, 4 vols., £26. Nichols' Leicester, 4 vols. (vol. iii., Part II., wanting), £39 10s. Musée Français et Musée Royal, 6 vols., £10 10s. Whitaker's Richmondshire, 2 vols., £12. Ackermann's Microcosm of London, 3 vols., £10 10s. Pilkington's Dictionary of Painters, with extra portraits and crayon drawings, £15. Smith's Catalogue Raisonné of Dutch, Flemish, and French Painters, 9 vols., £35 10s. Symonds' Renaissance in Italy, 7 vols., £18 15s. Paradise Lost, 1669, £16. Byron's Poems on Various Occasions, Newark, 1807, £24. Nichols' Literary Anecdotes and History, 17 vols., £11 5s. Howell's State Trials, 34 vols., £12 5s. Florio's Montaigne, 1603, £17. Kelmscott Press Issues: Tennyson's Maud, Morris's Gothic Architecture, Amis and Amiles, and German Woodcuts of the Fifteenth Century, 4 vols., £10 1s.—*Athenæum*, January 28.

Messrs. Christie, Manson, and Woods sold yesterday a small collection of old Italian bronzes, the property of a gentleman, interesting objects of art of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, and other articles from different private collections. The more important of the Italian bronzes were: Female figure representing Fortitude holding the club of Hercules, seventeenth century, 24 guineas (Bruce). A pair of figures personifying Hope and Prudentia, early sixteenth century, from Prince Demidoff's collection, 52 guineas (Johnson). Statuette of Venus, by or after John of Bologna, sixteenth century, 24 guineas (Bruce). Figure of a boy, seated on a column supported by marine monsters, sixteenth

century, 52 guineas (Cooper). Statuette of Lucretia, sixteenth century, 44 guineas (Bruce). Statuette of Apollo holding a lyre, sixteenth century, 44 guineas (Worsley). Candlestick, supported by three winged female figures, sixteenth century, 60 guineas (Richardson). Seated figure of Venus, extracting a thorn from her foot, £34 (Worsley). Figure of a hound, seated, fifteenth century, exhibited at South Kensington Museum, £120 (Goldsmid). Statuette of a follower of Bacchus, carrying a skin or bag for grapes, £35 (Bruce). Figure of Cupid, reclining on a convex cover, seventeenth century, £35 (A. Smith). The other articles included: A gold pendant jewel, formed as Aphrodite seated on a sea-horse, enamelled white and green, Italian or Sicilian work, sixteenth century, £46 (A. Smith). An oblong ivory casket, carved in relief with figures of Roman warriors and huntsmen in sunk panels, and borders of medallion heads and rosette ornament in sunk annular panels, 5½ inches high, 9 inches wide, probably ninth century work, formerly the property of the ancient family of Pirolò in Syracuse, 40 guineas (Pennell). An octagonal hand-mirror, in frame of cruciform shape of transparent amber, elaborately carved and inlaid with small ivory reliefs of figures, German work of the sixteenth century, 14½ inches by 7½ inches, 48 guineas (White). An antique Phœnician glass tazza, of exceptional size, the whole surface covered with a brilliant iridescence, 11 inches diameter, 3½ inches high, found in Cyprus, 32 guineas (Larkin). A Crown Derby dessert service, painted with flowers in the centres, dark blue and richly-gilt ground, formerly in the possession of Percy Bysshe Shelley, the poet, 28 guineas (Balding). A close Maximilian helmet of bright steel, fluted skull, and bellows, visor of good form, three gorget plates, circa 1540, 60 guineas (Harding).—*Times*, February 7.

MESSRS. SOTHEBY, WILKINSON, AND HODGE concluded yesterday the sale of a valuable collection of English coins and medals, the property of a baronet, and a collection of English war-medals, the property of the late Mr. Robert Thompson, of Newcastle-on-Tyne. The 348 lots realized a total of £1,337. The more important lots included the following: Henry VIII. George noble, an unpublished variety, St. George on horseback on reverse piercing the dragon, £21 (Spink); Edward VI. sovereign, third coinage, well preserved and very rare, £16 (Spink); Charles I. Oxford three-pound piece, 1643, fine example, £13 5s. (Weight); Mary, royal, 1555, bust of Queen uncrowned, £12 15s. (Spink); Elizabeth, the Portcullis dollar, half, quarter, and eighth dollar, a fine set of four, £20 10s. (Spink); Charles I. Exeter pattern half-crown, 1642, very rare, £15 15s. (Verity); Scarborough shilling, with two high towers, £23 15s. (Spink); a Scarborough sixpence, nearly the same as preceding, very rare, £17 (Verity); Commonwealth, pattern shilling, 1651, by Ramage, £18 5s. (Spink); the medal for the defence of Khelat-i-Ghilzai, Invicta, 1842, in extra fine condition and very rare, £20 15s. (Glendenning); engraved medal of the Wandsworth Yeomanry Cavalry, given to Sergeant J. Williamson, June 4, 1811, unique, £12 12s. (Skinner); Army General Service medal,

with clasp, for "Chateauguay," to an Iroquois warrior, very fine, £16 (Spink); army of India, 1799-1826, one bar, Maheidpur, verified, £18 (Ninnes); Campaign in Scinde, 1843, Meanee, well preserved and very rare, as granted to a native, £41 (Ninnes); Naval General Service war-medal, with three clasps, December 14, 1814, Ed. Jones, £40 (Ninnes); and a gold medal, Burmese war, 1824-26, elephant crouching before lion, an original specimen of an extremely rare medal, £23 (Spink).—*Times*, February 8.

PUBLICATIONS OF ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETIES.

The *Quarterly Statement* of the Palestine Exploration Fund, dated January, 1899, is before us. It contains the usual wealth of matter relating to the work done in the Holy Land. Intermixed with valuable notes on bones, on newly-discovered springs and cisterns, on the "boards of the tabernacle," and on antiquities of various kinds, are one or two longer papers. One, by Mr. Mark Sykes, narrates the incidents of a "Journey East of Jebel Ed-Druse," which was full of interest and not entirely free from adventure. Another contains Dr. Bliss's "First Report on the Excavations at Tell Zakariya." This Tell is an almost isolated hill rising abruptly above the Vale of Elah, on the border of ancient Philistia. The excavations have already been unusually productive. The objects found include many stone implements, iron and bronze pins, needles, arrows, etc., a jar containing more than eighty carnelian beads, various scarabs, and much pottery, but very few coins. The Tell abounds with remains of rock-working, including cup marks, chambers, and miscellaneous rock-cuttings. The discoveries under these several heads are passed in review by Mr. R. A. S. Macalister, M.A. The *Statement* is liberally illustrated.

We have received the title-page and index to vol. vi. of the *Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society*, and also Part II. of vol. vii. The latter contains reports of the meetings of the society held during last summer and autumn, and the following papers: "Colchester in the Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries," by George Rickword; "The Castle of Ongar," by J. C. Gould; "The Honour of Ongar," by J. H. Round, M.A.; and "Some Additions to Newcourt's Repertorium, vol. ii.," being Notes made by J. C. Challener Smith.

The *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland* for the quarter ended December 31, 1898 (vol. viii., part 4), has reached us. Among many interesting papers in a substantial part of 130 pages, the following are perhaps specially worthy of notice: "Newly-discovered Ogam in Mayo and Antrim, with Readings of those hitherto undescribed in Cork and Waterford," by Principal Rhys; "Ogam Inscriptions discovered in Ireland in the year 1898," by Robert Cochrane—a really surprising list; "Irish Flint Scrapers," by W. J. Knowles; and a paper by Francis J. Bigger on certain holy wells, ancient churches and shrines in

County Kerry. The illustrations are, as usual, numerous and good.

The twenty-third volume of the *Transactions of the Kent Archaeological Society* has just been issued to the members by Messrs. Mitchell and Hughes, the society's publishers. It is edited by the Rev. Canon Routledge, and contains twenty articles by various well-known archaeologists, including papers by the late Rev. J. Cave-Browne, Mr. W. H. St. John Hope, who has an exhaustive article on the Cathedral Church of St. Andrew at Rochester, amply illustrated and with three large coloured ground-plans; also by the Rev. Carus Vale Collier on "Coats-of-Arms in Kentish Churches," Mr. George Payne, Mr. W. L. Rutton, Mr. Leland Duncan, and Dr. F. Liebermann on the "Textus Roffensis," etc. The volume is well illustrated throughout.

PROCEEDINGS OF ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETIES.

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.—January 19.—Viscount Dillon in the chair.—The Rev. G. F. Harvey exhibited a Roman bronze vessel found in the Witham.—Mr. Leonard Lindsay, by permission of Mrs. Weld, exhibited a stole and fanon of early fourteenth-century date, and embroidered throughout with shields of arms, which have long been preserved at Leagram Hall, Lancashire, with a chasuble and other things. The chasuble is of late Flemish work, but the stole and fanon are of *opus Anglicanum*, and closely resemble the work of the Syon cope, with which they are believed to have had some connection. The Syon cope was lent for exhibition also from the South Kensington Museum.—Mr. Everard Green, Rouge Dragon, communicated some notes on the heraldry of the stole and fanon.—In the discussion that followed Mr. Micklethwaite drew attention to the chief features of the Syon cope, and showed that it had been stripped of its orphreys and otherwise mutilated, but had been brought to its present form, probably in the seventeenth century, by the addition of pieces of embroidery of about the same date, but different workmanship, though English. The narrow band with armorial lozenges now forming the border had that afternoon been made out by Mr. St. John Hope to consist of a stole and fanon of similar work and design to that exhibited by Mr. Lindsay, but somewhat shortened by cutting away the widened ends.—Mr. Hope also made some remarks, in which he pointed out that so far as the arms on the stole and fanon from Leagram could be positively identified, they indicated a date during the latter part of the thirteenth century rather than in the fourteenth, and many of the arms were to be found in the rolls of arms of Henry III.—Mr. J. L. Myres read a paper "On the Age and Purpose of the Megalithic Structures of Tripoli and Barbary."—*Athenæum*, January 28.

January 26.—Viscount Dillon, president, in the chair.—Mr. R. Blair, as local secretary for Northumberland, reported that on the recent demolition of the lighthouse at Tynemouth by the Trinity House, a number of carved and

moulded stones had come to light which there was reason to believe had been taken from the clerestory of the priory ruins.—Chancellor Ferguson, as local secretary for Cumberland, reported the discovery of a Roman altar at Bewcastle in October. It bears an inscription to Cocidius, a local deity. Three other altars dedicated to him have previously been found at Bewcastle.—Mr. H. S. Cowper in a paper discussed the theory propounded by Mr. Myres that the Senams of Tripoli were Roman oil-presses.

February 2.—Viscount Dillon, president, in the chair.—Mr. Barclay Squire read a note on the arms of Henry Bost, Provost of Eton, 1477-8—1502-3, which have been wrongly depicted in the modern stained glass and other places at Eton.—Mr. W. H. St. John Hope read some notes on recent discoveries in the cathedral church of Norwich through the removal of the whitewash from the stonework of the nave. This had disclosed interesting traces of the ravages of the fires that consumed the church in 1171, 1272, and 1463, as well as some scanty remains of painted decoration.—Mr. J. Ward communicated an account of the recent opening of several barrows in the vicinity of Buxton, Derbyshire.—*Athenæum*, February 11.

BRITISH ARCHÆOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION. — The fourth meeting of the session was held at the rooms in Sackville Street on January 18, C. H. Compton, Esq., Vice-President, in the chair.—Mrs. Collier exhibited some interesting drawings of prehistoric animals scratched upon reindeer horns, found at Périgord, in France.—The first paper was contributed by the Rev. Arthur Courtenay Roberts, Vicar of Dunmow, upon "An Essex Church Tower," and was read in his absence by Dr. Winstone.—The second paper was by Dr. W. de Gray Birch, F.S.A., entitled "Historical Notes on Ramsey Abbey MSS." The Benedictine Abbey of Ramsey in Huntingdonshire is believed to have been founded in or about A.D. 969, by Alwinus, a Duke or Earl of the East Anglians, at the instigation of Oswald, one of the most active Archbishops who ever occupied the provincial chair of York Cathedral. Regarding the derivation of the name Ramsey, the author thought it might be taken to mean Ravens' Island. The abbey stood at the upper end of the town, toward the south, at a little distance from the present church. The only remains existing are the ruined gateway, a rich specimen of florid Gothic, and some much older work in the kitchen of Lord de Ramsey's house. The paper was full of most interesting extracts from and references to the valuable series of MSS. once belonging to this noble abbey, now preserved in the British Museum and the Public Record Office. It was intended to have visited Ramsey during the recent congress of the association at Peterborough, but the idea was reluctantly abandoned.—Communicated by the Hon. Secretary.

ROYAL ARCHÆOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.—General meeting, February 1, Mr. Emanuel Green, hon. director, in the chair.—Mr. F. Peacock, F.S.A., exhibited two Dutch or Flemish tobacco-boxes, and Mr.

Hilton, hon. treasurer, added to the exhibition twelve other brass and wooden tobacco-boxes of very elegant and varied design.—Dr. A. C. Fryer contributed a paper on "Christian Symbolism in St. David's Cathedral." He treated in detail the several emblems depicted on the monumental effigies, sculptures, carving, and fresco paintings, most of which bear the date of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries.—Mr. Walter Cave read a paper on the Saxon Crypt discovered in September, 1898, at Sidbury Church, Devon. In making excavations for some heating-pipes, traces of walling below the Norman foundation of the north wall of the chancel were found, which, being further exposed, brought to light the outlines of the Saxon crypt. The crypt is practically a square chamber within the lines of the original Norman chancel, with an entrance in the west wall, and a flight of steps leading up into the nave. These steps are placed 2 feet 8 inches north of the central line, drawn through the church from east to west, the reason being that the steps leading to the presbytery would probably be placed as nearly central as possible, and therefore the steps down to the crypt would have to be on one side. Hence Mr. Cave concludes that, before the Norman church was built, there existed on the same site a small Saxon church, with a nave and narrow presbytery, and a crypt below, the latter arranged in a manner that differs from all known examples.—*Communicated by the Hon. Secretary.*

NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.—January 19.—Dr. O. Codrington in the chair.—Mr. T. Bliss exhibited some rare pennies of Kings of Mercia, including Offa, Coenwulf, Berthulf and Ceolwulf.—Mr. W. C. Boyd exhibited some pennies of Eadred and Eadgar, all bearing the names of unpublished moneyers, or being unpublished varieties.—Mr. L. A. Lawrence showed a series of groats, half-groats, pennies, etc., of Henry IV. and V., and invited members to bring to his notice any variety of these coins, as he hoped to throw some fresh light on the classification of this series.—Mr. P. Nelson contributed a paper on "Coins and Tokens of the Isle of Man." Having given a slight sketch of the history of the island, especially in reference to its numismatics, Mr. Nelson traced the origin and development of the Triskeles or Triune, the heraldic Manx symbol. This sign was shown to be of considerable antiquity, as it is found on coins of Lycia and Pamphylia of the sixth century B.C., and at later times on those of Syracuse and on Roman republican denarii. Its original connection with the Isle of Man was difficult to trace, but Mr. Nelson supposed that it may have come through Alexander III. of Scotland, who was also King of Man and the Isles, and whose wife was the sister of the Queen of Sicily. The fact that its first appearance with the motto "Quocunq[ue] jeceris stabit" was about that time (A.D. 1266-86) seemed to bear out this view. The writer then described the currency of the island, which, with the exception of a few tokens of the seventeenth century, consisted only of pennies, halfpennies, and farthings of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. These pieces were first issued

by the Derby family, who were "Lords of Man," and afterwards by the Athols, who succeeded to the title by right of inheritance. When the Isle of Man was incorporated in 1765 with the British dominions by purchase, the coinage assumed a regal character, and continued so till 1839, the date of the last issue of a separate currency. In 1840 all coins, except those of English type, were suppressed by Act of Parliament.—*Athenæum*, January 28.

A very satisfactory report was forthcoming at the twenty-first annual meeting of the FOLK-LORE SOCIETY, held on January 18. It was stated that the collection of Mexican antiquities which Professor F. Starr has presented to the society has reached England, and arrangements are being made for its exhibition during this year, and that a movement has been set on foot for the purpose of making the society and its work better known in London by promoting meetings of a popular character and open to the general public at suitable centres. Among the proposals for future work may be mentioned a bibliography of British folk-lore, the classification and analysis of British popular customs, the completion of the series of county folk-lore, and a *catalogue raisonné* of folk-lore objects preserved in the museums of the United Kingdom. It may be added that a Folk-song Society, having for its object collection, preservation, and illustration of British popular music and poetry, has been founded, and, although not officially connected with the Folk-lore Society, its programme and work have a special character which appealed particularly to all those present at the meeting.—Mr. E. S. Hartland was unanimously elected president in succession to Mr. Alfred Nutt.

The annual meeting of the KILDARE ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY was held on January 18 in the Courthouse, Naas. The Earl of Mayo, president of the society, took the chair. Sir Arthur Vicars read the annual report of the council, which stated that the society was in a flourishing condition and a good deal of useful work had been performed during the past year. A keen supporter of the society had been lost in the person of Mr. J. R. Sutcliffe, who had acted as auditor of the society since its formation, a position for which his excellent business qualities eminently fitted him. The roll of membership now amounted to 158. The council had sent out a circular to members pointing out subjects for papers, but this step had not been productive of much better results. The annual excursion took place in September. Some members had complained of the crowding in of people who did not belong to the society, and who only joined out of idle curiosity. The council hoped to prevent this in future, and at the same time not to encroach unduly on the legitimate desire of the residents for participating in the demonstration. The council hoped, in accordance with the expressed wish of Major Blacker, to restore the fine altar of the Eustaces at Castlemartin. The council would welcome suggestions as to a suitable district to be visited by the society in future, and they also appealed on behalf of the hon. editor for contri-

butions to the journal.—On the conclusion of the more formal business, the Rev. E. O'Leary, P.P., read the third and concluding part of a paper on "John Lye's Descendants and their Successors at Clonaugh, Co. Kildare."—Lord Walter Fitzgerald read a paper on "(a) The Ash Tomb in St. David's Church, Naas; and (b) John FitzGerald of Narraghbeg, Co. Kildare."—The Earl of Mayo read a paper entitled "Notes on Furness or Forenaughts Great."

The January meeting of the SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF SCOTLAND was held in their library at the Museum, Queen Street, Edinburgh, Mr. J. Balfour Paul, Lyon King of Arms, in the chair.—The first paper was an investigation of the origin and growth of the tradition "Ecce Tiber! Ecce Campus Martius!" as applied to the Tay and Inches of Perth, by Dr. James Macdonald.—In the second paper, Mr. Robert Miller, F.S.A., Scot., the late Lord Dean of Guild, submitted the results of an exhaustive investigation of the council records, the Dean of Guild's accounts, and the protocol books of the city of Edinburgh, with the view of answering the question, Where did John Knox live in Edinburgh? so far as it was possible to find the precise localities of his several residences by an examination and comparison of these documents.—In the third paper Mr. J. M. Mackinlay discussed the subject of Celtic anchorites and their island retreats, in which they sought seclusion from the world. Such retreats, he said, were known in ecclesiastical language as "deserta," a word which had become incorporated with the topography of Scotland and Ireland as Dysart. Retreats of this kind were sometimes attached to monasteries, as Disert Columcille, which was attached to Kells, and the desertum at Iona, still traceable by the old burying-ground named Cladh-an-Disears.—In the last paper, Rev. J. E. Somerville, F.S.A. Scot., described an ancient structure in Canna, locally called the Altar. It is built of flagstones of Torridon sandstone, and contains a "cella," in which are laid a quantity of votive offerings consisting of rounded pebbles from the seashore. The erection forms the centre of a large circle of stone, about 100 yards in diameter, within which and around the altar are arranged five cairns of stones. Near it is a flagged underground passage, about 2 feet square, up which, to a spring of water, sick people had to crawl, and were then laid in a bed made of stones, and left for the night in the expectation of a cure. The structure seemed to consist of what in Ireland is called a "station," adjoined to a holy well. Its form is like that of Tobair Ashig in Skye, and the Well of the Virtues in St. Kilda. Martin, describing a stone-covered holy well in Gigha, which also cured diseases, mentions that the offerings left consisted largely of pebbles of prettily variegated stones. Superstitious veneration of altar-stones, which were used both for blessing and cursing, and for swearing oaths upon, was common in Scotland and Ireland, and reference was made to the Black Stones of Iona and other instances.—There were exhibited by Mr. Hay Fleming, LL.D., a bronze bowl or pyx, with a Celtic cross engraved on the lid, which was recently

found in digging a grave in the Cathedral burying-ground, St. Andrews; by the committee of the Laing Free Library, Newburgh, a bronze sword brought up from the bottom of the Tay in a salmon net, at Mugdrum; by Mr. Bryden, Crief, through Mr. A. G. Reid, F.S.A. Scot., Auchterarder, a large and finely polished axe of felsstone, found at Dalpatrick, Strathearn; and by Mr. R. B. Gow, Kirkland, Dalry, Ayrshire, through Dr. D. Christison, a facsimile of a posy ring, with an inscription in old French, and a basket-work ring of gold ploughed up near Beith.—Abridged from the report in the *Scotsman*.

The monthly meeting of the LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY was held in Chetham's Library, Manchester, on January 13, the president in the chair.—Dr. Renaud, F.S.A., read the principal paper, on "Biddulph Hall and Church." He described the former well-known relic as a semi-fortified manor-house with a moat, built for comfort rather than for prolonged defence against organized opposition. Its *tout ensemble* showed a stately example of the sixteenth century Renaissance architecture. When the Saxon thanes were dispossessed, and William the First parcelled out their landed possessions to his Norman followers, the district of Staffordshire in question was allotted to Orme de Guicion, otherwise known as the Forester. The hall was built in the reign of Elizabeth by Francis Biddulph, grandfather of John, who was its occupant and possessor at the time of the Civil War in the seventeenth century, when the Parliamentary forces under Sir William Brereton besieged and destroyed the house. Five portholes for cannon are yet visible, four of these piercing the west front and one the tower, where the building faces from a gentle declivity into the valley beneath. On this side no indication of the besiegers' shots are observable, though on the south aspect "Roaring Meg" (which was obtained from Stafford) has left undeniable evidence of battering in splinterings and indentations. In speaking of Biddulph Church, Dr. Renaud said that of its early history very little is known. A circular transition Norman font, embellished with interlacing and round-headed arches, and supported on four short pillars surmounted with square-headed capitals, sufficiently indicates late twelfth century workmanship. Sad to say, this ancient relic has been re-chiselled. A mortuary cross, of the late Decorated period, stands unmutated in the churchyard amongst the few that escaped the "stumping" edict of the Stuart King. Originally fixed in a closer proximity to the church, it was removed to its present site when a north aisle was made in addition to the church, and was then found to rest on a series of incised and unlettered coffin-lids, at one time marking out graves within the precincts of the church of early feudal lords, but then accounted of so little value as to serve as foundation stones for a later structure. The designs on them bear evidence of very early date, quite as early as any figured in printed books treating of post-Saxon monumental remains of a like nature. The paper was illustrated by ten original drawings executed by Dr. Renaud so far back as 1854.—Mr.

D. F. Howorth, F.S.A. Scot., read a paper on the "Manx Coinage."

The monthly meeting of the DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY was held on January 20, in the Society's Hall, Greyfriars, Dumfries, Mr. Barbour presiding.—Two papers, on "Ptolemy's Scotland" and "Roman Roads in Britain," by Dr. E. J. Chinnock, were read. In his second paper, Dr. Chinnock gave an account of the Roman roads described in Antonine's *Itinerary*, and a detailed exposure of the Richard of Cirencester *Itinerary of Britain* forgery.

The SUSSEX ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY held an evening meeting at the Manor Hall, Old Town, Eastbourne, on January 23. The new Vicar of Eastbourne, the Rev. Canon Goodwin, presided, and in opening the proceedings alluded to the valuable discoveries made in connection with the excavations at Michelham.—The papers read were on "The Hundred of Eastbourne and its Boroughs in the Thirteenth Century," by the Rev. W. Hudson; "Some Early Sussex Charters," by Mr. J. H. Round, M.A.; and "Eastbourne Church, its Dedication and Guilds," by Mr. H. M. Whitley.—Several excellent impressions of Sussex brasses, with other drawings, were exhibited on the walls of the hall, while some old wooden platters, the property of Miss Whitley, and other interesting objects were displayed.



Reviews and Notices of New Books.

[Publishers are requested to be so good as always to mark clearly the prices of books sent for review, as these notices are intended to be a practical aid to book-buying readers.]

THE EVOLUTION OF THE ENGLISH HOUSE. "Social England" Series. By Sidney Oldall Addy, M.A. Cloth, 8vo., pp. xxviii, 223. With 42 illustrations. London: Swan Sonnenschein and Co., Limited, 1898. Price 4s. 6d.

It was a happy thought that prompted Mr. Addy to write this book, and the editors of the "Social England" Series to include it in their list. The subject is fresh, and in this informing and entertaining volume it has received adequate treatment. Mr. Addy traces the growth of the English house from the round or beehive hut of wood or basket-work, with its central open hearth, through the successive stages of the rectangular house—evolved originally from the summer booth or tent, constructed by "placing two wooden 'forks' or 'crutches' at a convenient distance apart, and extending a ridge-tree from the apex of one 'fork' to the apex of the other"—to the modern mansion. The outline of the history is clothed with a wealth of illustration and example drawn from ample stores

of learning. The illustrations, which consist chiefly of plans and sections, are not the least valuable part of the book. There is a fairly full index, and a short bibliographical list of "Some Books Cited."



WEST IRISH FOLK-TALES AND ROMANCES. Collected and translated by William Larminie. "Antiquarian Library." Cloth, 8vo., pp. xxviii, 258. London: Elliot Stock, 1898. Price 3s. 6d. net.

Mr. Larminie has done his work in very thorough fashion. The book contains eighteen tales, which were all taken down word for word from the dictation of the peasant narrators—two by the late Mr. James Lecky, and the remainder by Mr. Larminie. In each case the name and place of residence of the narrator is given, and the collector has studiously refrained from in any way revising or "doctoring" the narratives. The volume is thus a first-hand collection of genuine folk-tales from a region which is steeped in legendary lore. The tales themselves are curiously varied. Some are touched with the beauty of the scenery of Western Ireland, and their action is carried on among giants and "good people" and the other usual *dramatis personæ* of folk-tales, while others again are curiously modern in tone; in one, "The Servant of Poverty," the police are sent for in quite a matter-of-fact, up-to-date manner, and in some, such as "Jack," mere fun and devilment supply the motive. Mr. Larminie supplies an interesting Introduction and a few Notes, and in an Appendix gives one or two specimens of stories in the original Connaught dialect of Irish Gaelic. An index of incidents would have been a useful addition to this valuable volume.



Among the periodicals and pamphlets which have reached us are the *Essex Review* (Chelmsford, Durrant and Co.) for January, containing a paper on Francis Quarles, and other matter of more local interest; the *Genealogical Magazine* (London, Stock) for February, an average number; the *East Anglian* (Norwich, Goose; and London, Stock) for December last; the *American Antiquarian and Oriental Journal* (Chicago, Ill.), containing papers on "The Social and Domestic Life of the Cliff Dwellers," "The Travels of a Buddhist Pilgrim, A.D., 399," "Animal Forms in Ancient Peruvian Art," etc.; and "A Church on the Broads"—an appeal for help in the work of repairing Ranworth Church, Norfolk, famous for its wonderful rood screen. The repairs mentioned in the last-named pamphlet are to be carried out under the experienced supervision of Mr. J. T. Micklethwaite, F.S.A., and the committee responsible for the same have received the support of the Society of Antiquaries, and of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. Subscriptions may be sent to the Rev. L. R. Paterson, the Vicarage, Ranworth, Norwich; or to Messrs. Barclay and Co., Norwich.



Correspondence.

TAKELEY CHURCH FONT-COVER.

TO THE EDITOR.

MY attention has been called to a short review of the font-cover and case at Takeley, Essex, in the *Antiquary* for August, in which the writer gives an abnormally early date to the structure. I feel sure he has been deceived, as many have been, by its highly decorated character. I found that almost all this was "put on" at a so-called restoration in 1878; before that, as an old parishioner informed me, it was much plainer.

After a careful study of the original work, I cannot date it *earlier* than 1500; as regards the case, the panelling evidently stamps it as between 1500 and the first twenty years of the seventeenth century. In this opinion I am supported by a recognised authority who has known the font-case and cover for many years, and describes them as "quite late." I can assure the writer that the whole thing is well-known to local antiquaries, and well cared for. May I suggest that the reviewer, before charging me with confusion, should do me the justice of quoting my note correctly; for he has made me put the font-case *on the top* of the pinnacled cover, a proceeding which I, even with my "no little ignorance," did not contemplate.

F. W. GALPIN.

Hatfield Vicarage, Harlow, January 17, 1899.

WANTED: AN ARCHÆOLOGICAL CYCLOPÆDIA.

TO THE EDITOR.

While diligently skimming well-nigh the whole range of standard publications on Archæology and Domestic Architecture in an endeavour to determine the age of various minor features of an ancient and oft-"restored" country mansion in which I am interested, and of small objects, such as keys, buttons, coins, etc., occasionally unearthed in and about it, I have met with such wearisome repetitions of hackneyed examples, and such baffling contradictions, inadequacies, and difficulties of reference, as to have led me to wish that the British Museum shelves could boast a Cyclopædia of English Archæology (particularly concerned with *Domestic Antiquities*) on a par for up-to-date analytic treatment with the H. E. D., a work wherein the novice, curious as to the possible antiquity, say, of a certain pattern of panelling, a peculiar window fastening, stanchion, or hinge, an obsolete style of morticing joists, or coursing masonry, etc., might turn with confidence to any article under its alphabetic heading to find the date and characteristics of its earliest appearance, and the typical developments and modifications of succeeding periods, with copious illustrations, references, and cross-references.

There can be no doubt that such a work would facilitate and stimulate antiquarian research and intercommunication.

Is not the time ripe for the enterprise?

The network of photographic societies, fast spreading over the country, might, under proper

organization, supply an invaluable repertoire of rural examples, not only of "long-drawn aisle and fretted vault," but of the quaint and instructive (however simple) "ins and outs" of ancient smaller mansions, farmhouses, and cottages, many of which, in the Western counties, can boast a record of full four centuries, and are to-day less threatened by the hand of Time than by that of the jerry-builder, who, even if sparing their existence, scruples not to subject them to the indignities of bow-windows and corrugated zinc roofs—a warning, surely, to the present generation to preserve even the shadow of such precious remains ere they vanish for ever.

ETHEL LAGA-WEEKES.

January 30, 1899.

OUBLIETTE OR MORTUARY?

TO THE EDITOR.

In looking over the old Castle of Sarzana, near Spezia, the other day, I was shown a large circular chamber, to which originally there was no entrance except by a small aperture in the centre of the ceiling. I was told that a large quantity of bones had been found below the present floor, and that in ancient times the custom was to throw dead bodies into the chamber.

Now, I saw a similar chamber many years ago in the Castle of Bouillon, in the Ardennes, and the account of it given there was that it was an oubliette for prisoners to be lowered into.

Which theory is right? or is there some other explanation? On the one hand, no one could live long in a damp vault without light or air, while a dead-house in the heart of the castle sounds horribly insanitary.

C. B.

Hôtel Croce di Malta, Spezia, January 30, 1899.

IRISH CRANNOGS.

TO THE EDITOR.

This term is formed from *crann*, "a pole," it being identical with our "crane," Welsh *garan*; so we have *crannag*, "cross-trees," suitable for a floored pile-dwelling.

It has been suggested that they were used for fishing-stations, and it will be interesting to learn from your obliging contributor if the site lately explored at Killucan favours this suggestion; that it was so, to some extent, is proved by the following extracts: In 1726 a new *cranagh* was ordered to be built near Coleraine; in 1739 the *cranagh* incurred a rent of £15 per annum, and produced several tons of fish (40 cwt. are recorded at one draught of the net). This *cranagh* was fixed at that part of the river [Bann?] best adapted for net-fishing; the fish that escaped the net were speared at the "salmon leap" up or down the river.

These extracts are taken from "A Concise View of . . . the Irish Society," London, 1832.

A. HALL.

February 2, 1899.

NOTE TO PUBLISHERS.—We shall be particularly obliged to publishers if they will always state the price of books sent for review.